

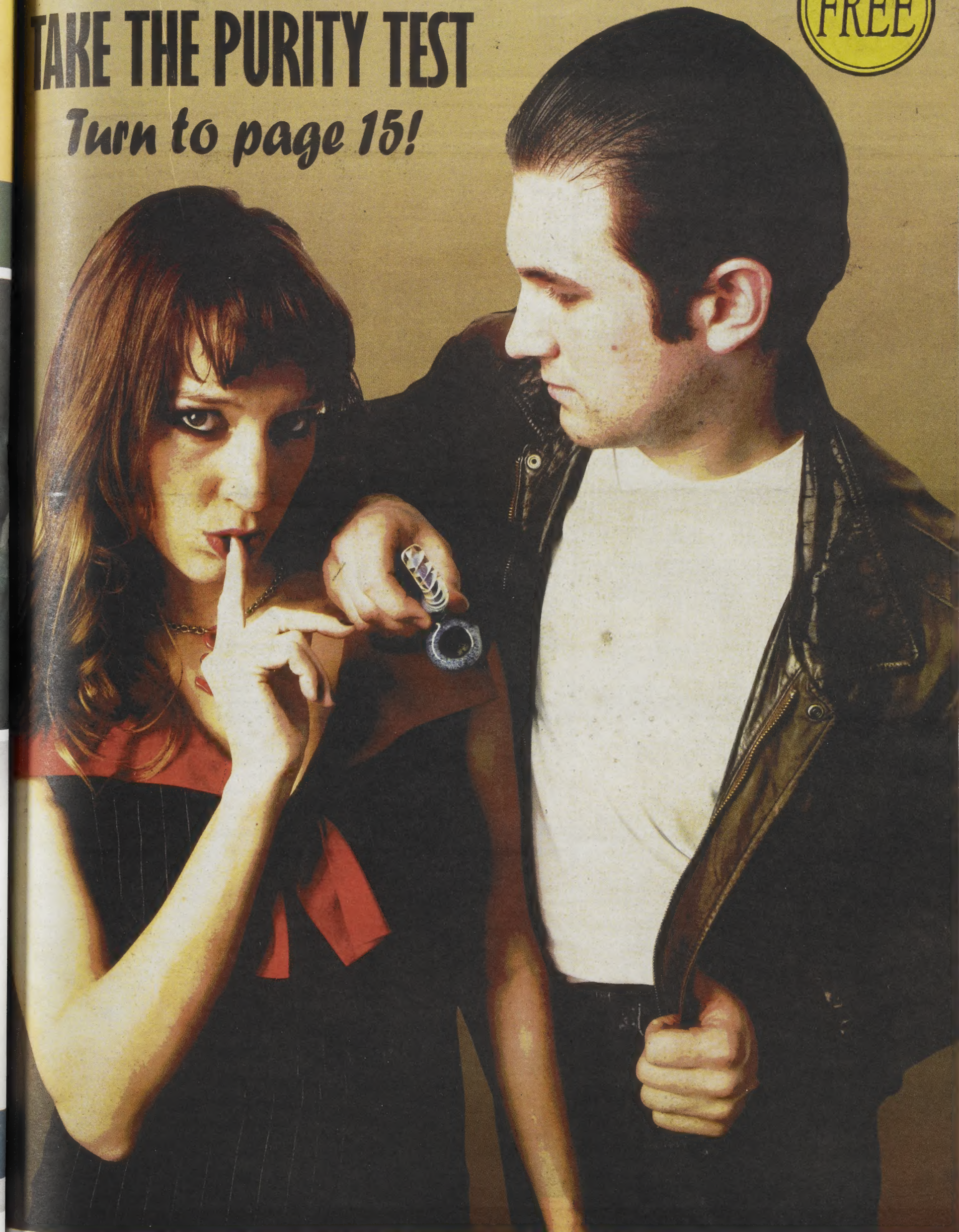
THE GATEWAY

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THE GATEWAY

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plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in
a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna,
Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's
sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that
way." The Gateway's games of choice are The Fool and
His Money and Duke Nukem 3D.

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“

It sounded really fruity, and I had no idea what it meant.

COUNCIL
FORUM

Written by Kirsten Goruk

*Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 24 February, where free food will be provided for all attendees.**On Tuesday night Council food featured a lovely spread of chili, salad, and fresh fruit. Healthy! So if you're at all interested in student politics, swing by, fill your belly, and get your democracy on.*

CASA ROLLS INTO EDMONTON

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) paid a visit to Students' Council on Tuesday night. Presenting to the councillors on the merits of the organization were National Director Zach Churchill, Member Relations Officer Dan Murphy, and Secretary and Vice Chair Alastair MacKinnon.

After providing Council with some background information about CASA, including details about the 23 student associations that they represent—which totals 300 000 postsecondary students—they delved straight into what CASA is really about.

With guiding principles like equality, flexibility, and pragmatism, CASA focuses solely on lobbying for PSE issues such as debt, funding, and quality at the national level. Boasting access to the Prime Minister, Premiers, and leaders of each political party, Churchill stressed their ability to bend the ears of key government players.

In terms of specific benefits for the University of Alberta, he assured Council that when it comes to lobbying for and acquiring funding for issues like student loans, the U of A receives ten per cent of the money.

They concluded with an overview of what is next on the horizon for CASA, including a focus on issues like the Canadian Student Grant Program and the proposed federal copyright law.

ADVOCACY BY THE NUMBERS

Following CASA's lead, Beverly Eastham, Vice President (External) presented to Council with an update on the SU's advocacy efforts as a whole.

As she explained, the SU is currently involved in three advocacy organizations—the Edmonton Alliance of Students (EAS) at the municipal level, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) at the provincial level, and CASA at the federal level.

EAS is a free enterprise that meets monthly, and Eastham informed Council of efforts which are in the works to arrange a meeting with the Mayor and City Council. If successful, it's some-

thing she hopes will become an annual event.

CAUS meets every month, with teleconference meetings every six months. Their fees total approximately \$47 821 per year, while CASA totals \$55 463—the sum of both totalling approximately one per cent of SU expenditures.

Eastham explained that advocacy efforts serve to keep postsecondary education issues prominent in public consciousness, which in turn provides better opportunities for the concerns to be addressed by all levels of government.

TIGHTENING THEIR BELTS

At Council on Tuesday night, the 2009/2010 budget principles were approved. Notable changes to next year include cutting the High School Leadership Conference, a dedication to allocating resources for a future expansion of SUB, future enhancement of student outreach and communication projects, and preparation for a possible increase in the consignment rate percentage charged by SUBtitles and the Print Centre (soon to be renamed SUBprint).

IAN CLARKE
Science Councillor
—on his interpretation of President Morin's
amendment to the 2009/10 Budget Principles

QUESTION PERIOD

Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham was asked to give an update on CAUS's "Open Up" campaign, which encouraged students to share their stories about their postsecondary education experience. The U of A received two responses, which she admitted was poor. Eastham explained that she feels the short timeline and personal nature of the campaign might have been contributing factors.

The University of Lethbridge and the University of Calgary received three and zero submissions respectively. Eastham explained that she feels the short timeline and personal nature of the campaign might have been contributing factors.

Vice President (Student Life) Kristin Flath detailed the final arrival of composting in SUB's food court, an initiative which was part of her campaign platform. The financial commitment proved to be more than originally anticipated—totaling \$15 000 a year, mostly for the composting bags. However, Flath believes that the decrease in costs for garbage pickup is a factor to take into consideration when looking at the overall bill.

READING WEEK HIATUS

Much like the rest of you, the Gateway staff will be taking a much-needed break from our publishing schedule over Reading Week. Look for our next issue on newsstands on Tuesday, 24 February.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Nick Frost and Pete YeeAs you may be aware, Valentine's Day is just around the corner.
So ... are you single?Alyson Dicey
Arts IIKarly Hanson
Psychology IIILana Farrell
Phys Ed IIISelena Hansen
Psychology III

Yes. [Would you like to go on a date with me Saturday night?] No. [laughs] Wait, that was the question?

Yes. [Would you like to go on a date with me Saturday night?] I'd love to, but I'm going to be in Banff this weekend.

Yes. [Would you like to go on a date with me Saturday night?] Sure! [So, shall we say 7pm at my place?] Sounds good.

No, I'm not. [So, then, what are your plans for Valentine's Day?] Well, the thing is, it's my boyfriend's birthday as well and we're incorporating it with that, so it's kind of a different situation.

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Lister residents question firing of Mackenzie VP with silent protest

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

Students living in Lister Hall joined together in a silent protest yesterday morning to show their support for a fellow resident whose job was recently terminated by Residence Services.

Mike Taylor, Vice President (Mackenzie Hall) with the Lister Hall Students' Association (LHSA), was fired last Friday morning by Residence Services on the grounds of insubordination. He also faces eviction and a permanent removal of residence privileges from Lister Hall.

While the students are seeking to clarify the exact terms on which Taylor was dismissed, concerns between the LHSA and Residence Services arose two weeks ago when Wade Lenox, a floor coordinator (FC) on the fifth floor of Mackenzie Hall, was fired for promoting a "negative drinking atmosphere."

In a defense of Lenox, Taylor expressed a desire to appeal to reason and lower the punishment—an opinion he thinks resulted in his current situation.

"I was expressing some of my personal viewpoints and my personal opinions, and they interpreted that very differently—they removed that from the context in which it was described in, and used that as a performance issue against me," Taylor said.

"So they're saying that my personal opinions have compromised my job performance. There is zero evidence of me not doing my job under any sort of circumstances."

Taylor explained that he has been characterized as a "liability to the community" even though he attests that his opinions haven't incited any



PETE YEE

SILENT SIT-IN Lister students protest outside Residence Services yesterday.

sort of negative action.

"They've deemed me a threat to the community based on my personal opinions, which never at any point have I initiated action upon," he added.

Mackenzie Hall resident Lindsay Spence was among the approximately 40 students who staged the protest early Wednesday morning outside the Residence Services office in Lister Centre. Students wore duct tape over their mouths with some displaying signs in support of Taylor.

"Now, because of all of that, other FCs and VPs are afraid to speak out, saying that they're worried for their job safety [...] Everyone feels like they've been silenced," Spence said.

"No FC and no VP is involved in this demonstration today—it's just the student body of Lister and we're

showing that the FCs have done so much for us, and the VPs have done so much for us, and they shouldn't have their rights of free speech or anything taken away."

In the meantime, Taylor plans to work with an ombudsperson to appeal the decision to evict him from the community.

"At the moment they're forcing him out of his room in a week, so we're hoping to get to the bottom of why that's happening and hopefully stop that from happening," said LHSA President Adam Williams.

Taylor is unsure whether or not he will decide to remain in his position as VP (Mackenzie).

Residence Services was contacted, but declined to comment on personnel issues.

City Council votes to approve relaxation of restrictions to secondary suites bylaw

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

Edmonton City Council voted last week in favour of the second phase of a bylaw that will lift restrictions on the development of secondary suites around the city, signalling a move towards increasing affordable housing options for students around the University of Alberta.

Secondary suites are those suites in a house secondary to the main dwelling that are leased out to individuals by the primary homeowners. This includes basement suites and, as a result of the new legislation, garage and garden suites.

The amended bylaw primarily lifts zoning restrictions for secondary suites, now extending where they can be built to include mature, low-density residential neighbourhoods as well as in newer neighbourhoods.

"The suites, in some instances, already exist, they're easy to produce, in a sense, or that secondary suites can be built as part of new homes, and secondary suites can also be put into existing homes," said Ward 4 City Councillor Karen Leibovici.

"The costs of having a secondary suite or building a secondary suite are much less than building affordable housing throughout the city."

By constructing new suites or renovating existing properties, city officials estimate that the bylaw will help create an additional 550 units of affordable housing by 2010.

Leibovici also hopes that the new legislation will encourage people living in the city's estimated 10 000 illegal secondary suites to come forward and declare their properties.

"We estimate that there are thousands of secondary suites that currently exist that we don't know about, and that may well not be up to code," she said, citing that many suites have yet to become legalized and therefore may not be meeting established fire and safety regulations.

"We're hoping that more homeowners will be upgrading to legal secondary suite status, and that our students will be able to have safe, quality, affordable housing."

BEVERLY EASTHAM
VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)

According to Students' Union Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham, secondary suites are a viable student housing option, and she hopes that the relaxing of restrictions will reduce illegal suites.

"A lot of the reason why students are living in secondary suites is because they're cheaper [and] the illegal ones tend to be cheaper than the market

value rate," Eastham noted.

"There's still a few kinks we need to work out, but as far as how it helps students [...] we're hoping that more homeowners will be upgrading to legal secondary suite status, and that ensures that our students will be able to have safe, quality, affordable housing," she added.

In order to increase the incentive for homeowners currently leasing illegal suites to come forward, the City will be offering a grant of up to \$24 000 to upgrade buildings if homeowners agree to rent suites to modest income tenants at 85 per cent of the median market rate over five years.

However, the SU believes that the amendments could have gone farther. Eastham specifically mentions the current parking regulations, which require three on-site parking spaces for a dwelling with a garage suite.

"We said to the City that in the university area, a lot of students are close to the university and most of them are probably not using cars but using the U-Pass, so we'd like to see those parking regulations really relaxed," she said.

Leibovici agrees with Eastham that affordable housing is key to Edmonton residents and students in particular.

"I think, generally, it was heartening to see that people recognized that there was a need for housing of this type and I think there was also a recognition that this was the kind of housing that could be very good for students and those on lower income."

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Alberta

U of A reaches compromise on renaming of Bay LRT station

Edmonton City Council recently approved name change for LRT station to Bay/Enterprise Square

KYLE GIBSON
News Writer

Students at the downtown campus can look forward to a change in scenery as the Bay LRT station will soon have its name changed to Bay/Enterprise Square station.

City council approved the station's name change last month after the University of Alberta compromised on a dual name. This came several months after losing an original petition to change the name to Enterprise Square over heritage concerns.

Cory Sousa, City Planner with the city of Edmonton's Planning and Development Department explained why the Hudson's Bay Company's history in the city and, in particular, their connection to the LRT station prompted the original defeat of the petition.

"The naming committee felt that the heritage of the Hudson's Bay Company and details of how the station was built were important to preserve. The company contributed at least \$500 000 towards the construction of the station," he said.

The U of A appealed to these concerns and offered to front the cost of \$25 000 to replace the signs, maps, and intercom recordings in addition

to installing commemorative plaques in and around the station in honour of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Don Hickey, Vice President (Facilities and Operations) recognizes the need to maintain the "Bay" portion of the name, but he also feels that it's equally important to recognize the changes and upgrades to the downtown area which are taking place.

"I'm not really sure it's the best use of money. I think it's a ridiculous expense—especially after passing tuition and rent increases—for the University of Alberta to be spending money renaming an LRT station."

BEVERLY EASTHAM
VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)

"I think it's important to recognize the Bay's significance but it's also important to recognize that the downtown station has a whole new purpose and a very definite link of that is Enterprise Square. It is an announcement of the University in the downtown area," he said.

"It's not very much money—around \$25 000—coming out of my portfolio

budget," Hickey added, referring to the money coming from the administration to fund the project.

Students' Union Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham disagrees.

"I'm not really sure it's the best use of money. I think it's a ridiculous expense—especially after passing tuition and rent increases—for the University of Alberta to be spending money renaming an LRT station," she said.

When asked if the SU was involved in the decision to rename the station Eastham indicated that they were not, stating that if the decision was sent through Students' Council, it wouldn't have been supported given the budgetary constraints faced by the University.

However Hickey believes that the money is well spent in terms of helping students find the downtown campus.

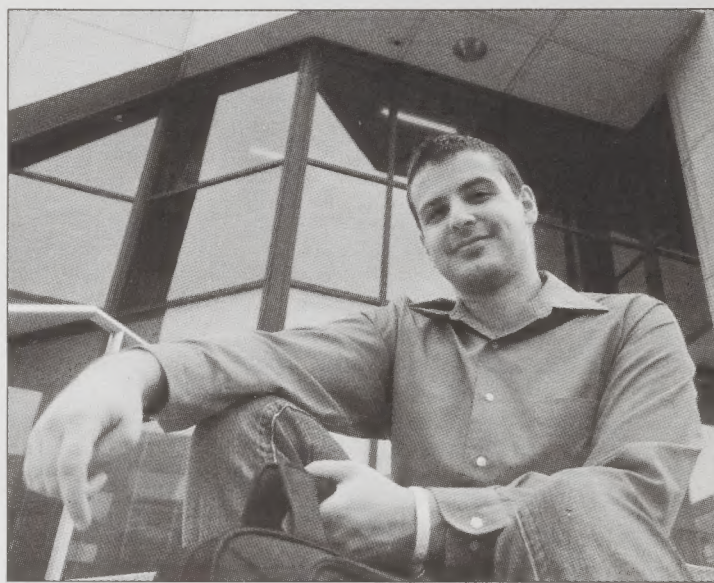
"I think [the name change] helps everybody, what we're talking about is way-finding and orientation and we think it's a long-term benefit to students who will be coming here for a number of decades," Hickey explained.

Eastham is skeptical of the need for a new name in terms of finding Enterprise Square.

"It really doesn't help as far as way-finding on the LRT system—which is something students use, but it's a very comprehensive system right now—and the only reason to perform the name change is really a branding exercise for the University."

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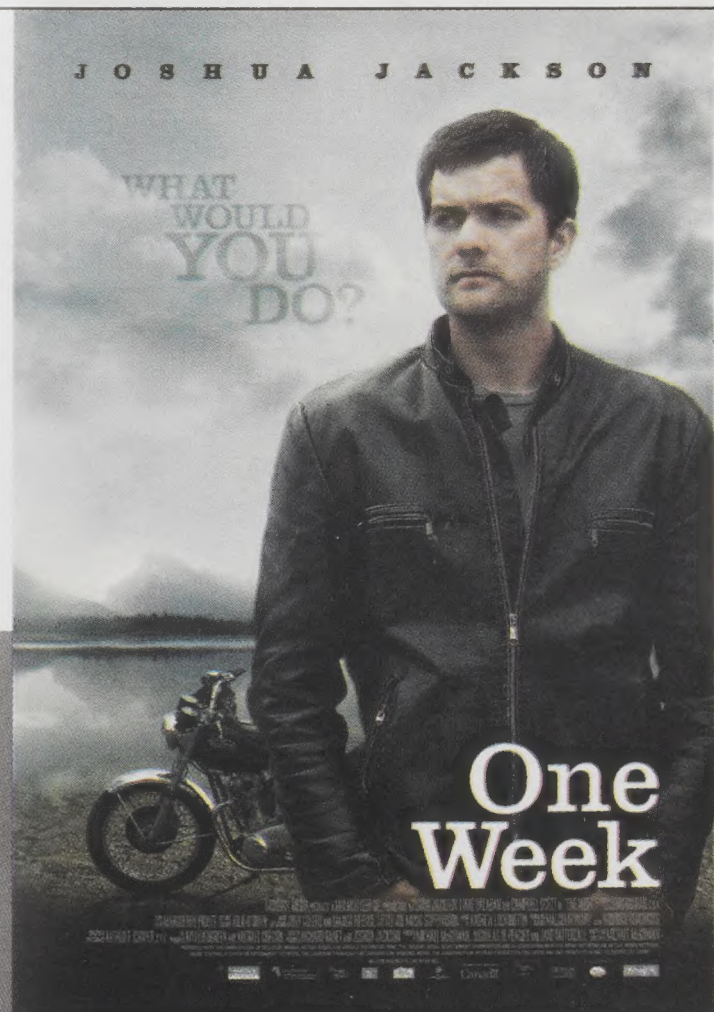
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CASA national director Zach Churchill answers advocacy questions

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

Since the University of Alberta Students' Union became an official member of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), what benefits would you say the students at the U of A have received?

The number-one benefit you get from being a member of CASA is that you have the unique opportunity to impact a national agenda for students and for the postsecondary education sector. [...] To be at the table where decisions are made in the national interest of students and impact those decisions. And what happens from those decisions, historically with our organization, is that we end up getting them passed in federal policy or in federal funding initiatives.

Recently, for example, if you want to look at money, in the federal budget that was delivered in December there was \$2 billion that'll be distributed for deferred maintenance throughout the country [...] The U of A is actually

going to benefit probably more than any other institution in the country from that money because of the way it's going to be distributed.

What are your top priorities this year?

As far as funding goes, issues that we thought would be really necessary in a stimulus package for the country in terms of what's needed for postsecondary education investment. There was spending for deferred maintenance, that was one of our four priorities. We also wanted a one-time increase in the federal transfer for postsecondary education to deal with this funding gap that's happening in the country. We also want additional spending to go to students who are in particular financial trouble because of this recession, to help every student who wants to pursue a higher education to do that, especially in this time, because we are the answer to this economic recession. Students are an educated workforce, an innovative workforce, and it's what's going to drive us out of

this. And we also wanted to extend the grace period on when students have to start paying back their loans when they pay interest, because it might be harder for students to get jobs in this current climate, and we need to make sure that they're protected.

As far as non-funding stuff goes, we're dealing with copyright and academic materials, we're dealing with implementation of the Canada Student Grant Program, ensuring that that's reaching out to all under-represented students. We also want to make sure that the government is thinking about this access agenda.

Postsecondary education is under provincial jurisdiction, yet CASA is focused on the federal level of government. Where do you see the benefit in lobbying federally?

To assert that the federal government in Canada has no role to play in post-secondary education or in the lives of students, is a complete misrepresentation of reality in this country. The federal government has historically been



MI CASA, SU CASA National Director Zach Churchill was on campus Tuesday.

significantly involved in the post-secondary sector, especially when it comes to student financial aid and making sure that students have the funds to access higher education; making sure they have the ability to

pay off their debt and the tools necessary to do that; and making sure we have the core funding necessary to run our postsecondary sector. The federal government is involved in really all levels except for tuition policy.

relinquish

[ri-ling-kwish]

-verb (used with object, or newspaper)

1. to renounce or surrender (a possession, right, etc.): to relinquish the throne.

2. to give up; put aside or desist from: to relinquish a plan.

3. to let go; release: to relinquish one's hold.



Ross can't let go of Gateway news, and we hope that you won't be able to either after discovering how awesome it is to investigate and write about the events affecting campus. Our news list emails are the highlight of his day, even all the way in Ottawa, and we hope they'll be the highlight of your day too! To find out more, come by our meetings on Fridays at 4pm in SUB 3-04.

GATEWAY

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New Canadian Centre for Theatre Creation opens at U of A campus



HAILEY SIRACKY

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME Kim McCaw, the Canadian Centre for Theatre Creation's director believes that the new centre will provide Canadian artists with the required resources to get their projects off the ground.

JONATHAN TAVES
News Staff

The theatre industry in Edmonton welcomed an important resource when the Canadian Centre for Theatre Creation (CCTC) opened its doors in late January.

The centre, operating from the University of Alberta, will help support the development and production of all varieties of theatre from stage plays to more experimental image and movement-based performances.

"Sometimes we'll just be a resource for individual artists to help develop a play that then will go somewhere else and be produced," explained Kim McCaw, the centre's director, and U of A drama professor.

"We also want to be active partners in producing new pieces of theatre, and also experiments in theatre, so it won't necessarily just be plays," he added.

Playwrights will be able to employ the centre's resources in improving their scripts and finding venues and funding to have their work come to fruition.

"We realized there was this critical mass of people—who [at] the centre of their own creative activity, and their research activity—[were] doing new plays. We said rather than doing this independently and individually, we could form an actual sort of centre that had structure and an administration that had the ability to find

funding that an individual couldn't," McCaw described.

The establishment of the CCTC was made possible through a cornerstone grant from the Killam Foundation, and the centre has also received financial support from the Faculty of Arts. The founders hope that other foundations, grants, and donors will allow the organization to continue its growth and influence.

"A country and a community grows through developing its own culture, telling its own stories and finding out how it expresses itself."

KIM MCCAW
CCTC DIRECTOR

"In the context of the University, there is that kind of vision that allows you to really experiment and really look at things that might not be commercially viable," said Kathleen Weiss, associate director and another founding member of the centre.

"I like the idea that this could be sort of a western centre that could serve people in the west, and eventually, it would have enough prestige that people would come to us looking for plays," she explained.

McCaw said that the CCTC is different from other play development centres in that it can offer more than just script improvement—it can also support the entire process of producing a performance. He sees this type of work as beneficial to the cultural impact the stage can have.

"A country and a community grows through developing its own culture, telling its own stories and finding out how it expresses itself and how it explores what it means to be a Canadian, what it means to be here and now, what are the things we need to talk about, what are the debates and discussions that have to be taking place," he said.

The hope for the CCTC is that it will foster that type of discussion by bringing people together to expose their art.

"If a country is going to have a strong national identity, one of the ways that identity is established, and certainly communicated, is through your art forms. Theatre is one of the most powerful art forms to do that because it's social, because it actually portrays people," Weiss said.

"If you're a painter, you can be in your studio, and you can paint your paintings, and they're brilliant. Maybe eventually people will buy them. But if you're a playwright, you have to have other people to work with. The work is not fulfilled until you get it up on a stage with actors. People need a lot of support to be able to get there."

with the thief before the cowardly crook finally gave up and fled on foot. Later in the night, the same thief was busted by EPS on Whyte Avenue after he tried to rob at least three other people using a baseball bat.

WATCH THE FIVE-HOLE

In the early evening of 7 February, a hockey player reported that \$6000 worth of goalie equipment was swiped from the men's change room in Clare Drake. EPS is investigating due to the high value of the property taken.

HOLD IT TOGETHER GUYS

At 2:30am on 8 February, 5-0 officers on patrol stopped a group of drunk students at 114 Street and 87 Avenue. Just then, one of the girls in the group threw up in front of the officers. The group was escorted back to Lister, and the girl with the upset tummy was left in the care of

a sober friend.

LUGGAGE LARCENY

At 2pm on 9 February, a student studying in the fifth floor of Rutherford reported that her backpack was stolen. She left it unattended for a few moments while using a computer. Campus Security came and searched the library, and found the backpack minus some cash taken from her wallet.

THE MALEVOLENT SEVEN

At 10pm on 9 February, a Grant MacEwan student reported to Campus 5-0 that he had been robbed at the Health Sciences LRT station. A group of seven thieves pulled a weapon and the victim handed over his valuables. Transit Security were called and they spotted the group on camera at Belvedere Station. EPS were called, the group was busted, and charges are pending.

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CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

At lunch o'clock on 7 February, a food court employee in SUB reported her purse had been stolen from a staff room. The staff room in question is left unlocked during business hours, but luckily the culprit was caught on camera. Edmonton Police are investigating.

SWITCH HITTER

At 11pm on 7 February, a student called Campus 5-0 and reported an attempted mugging on 110 Street and 88 Avenue. The thief attacked the student's girlfriend and the caller fought

NEWS BRIEF

PSE PROMISES IN THRONE SPEECH

The Alberta Legislature rolled out its red carpet Tuesday afternoon for Lt-Gov Norman Kwong, as he arrived in the capital to read the 2009 Speech from the Throne and deliver the provincial government's plans for this legislative session.

Focusing heavily on innovation, the speech contained limited references to postsecondary education outside of the research sector.

"Overall, it was sort of disappointing to see that postsecondary wasn't highlighted as a way out of the economic situation that we're in right now, because that's something that we think is going to be a major part of trying to move forward with the economy," said Beverly Eastham, Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) and University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President (External).

"There's a section in there about revising how funding is aligned for postsecondary education, and that sounds sort of ominous to us—like the government might be looking at cutting corners or even cutting off some funding—and this

is a time when we really need universities the most," she added.

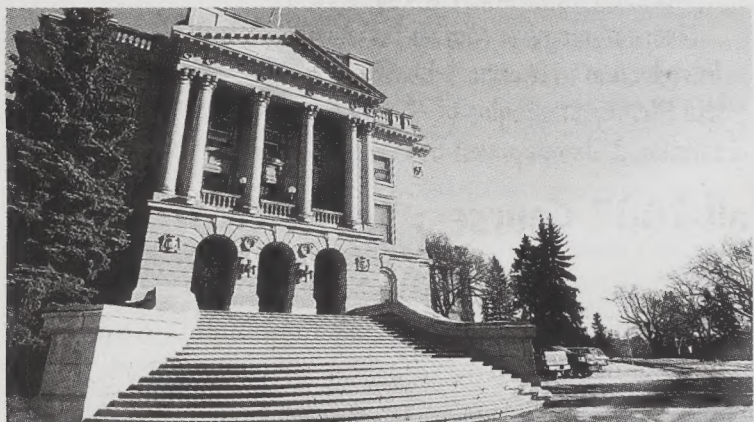
Mentioned in the Throne Speech is a revised funding approach to the new Campus Alberta philosophy—a plan to increase ease of entry and movement into the province-wide postsecondary system. According to the speech, Campus Alberta will seek to "better align resources with learner and labour market demand, focusing on areas that support Alberta's strategic advantage."

Strengthening Alberta's skilled workforce by increasing new technologies and providing support to researchers and entrepreneurs was also highlighted.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly begin their regular spring session proceedings, Eastham remains poised to see what concrete initiatives the government will direct towards postsecondary education.

Among these is the Postsecondary Learning Amendment Act 2009, which was introduced as Bill 4 in the Legislature yesterday. If passed, the amendments will allow baccalaureate and applied institutions—including Calgary's Mount Royal College and Grant MacEwan College—to apply the term "university" in their name.

—Jennifer Huygen, Senior News Editor



BACK IN BUSINESS The Alberta Legislature is back for its 2009 spring session. SAMBROOKS

Fast food linked to childhood asthma

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
News Writer

A study recently published by University of Alberta researcher Anita Kozyrskyj concluded that eating fast food more than two times a week negated the protective effects that breastfeeding provides in preventing respiratory disease in children.

The article, published in the international journal *Clinical and Experimental Allergy* in January 2009, detailed how researchers gathered 700 Manitoba children between the ages of eight and ten and used a questionnaire to gather information from their parents regarding diet, home environment, and breastfeeding.

A team of researchers from the University of Manitoba published the paper and Kozyrskyj was recently recruited to the U of A as the Research Chair for Maternal-Child Health and the Environment. She noted that breastfeeding rates have been increasing, which should result in asthma rates decreasing in children. Instead, results have shown they have also been increasing.

"Our question was, 'if a child consumes fast food at a certain stage, does that overtake the protective effects of breastfeeding?'" she said.

The study confirmed that breastfeeding is beneficial to preventing asthma and allergy, but the beneficial effect was only seen in children who did not consume fast food. Children who had been breastfed for only a short time as an infant and consumed fast food frequently had the highest risks.

"[These children] had a greater than two-fold risk of asthma, compared to infants who had been exclusively

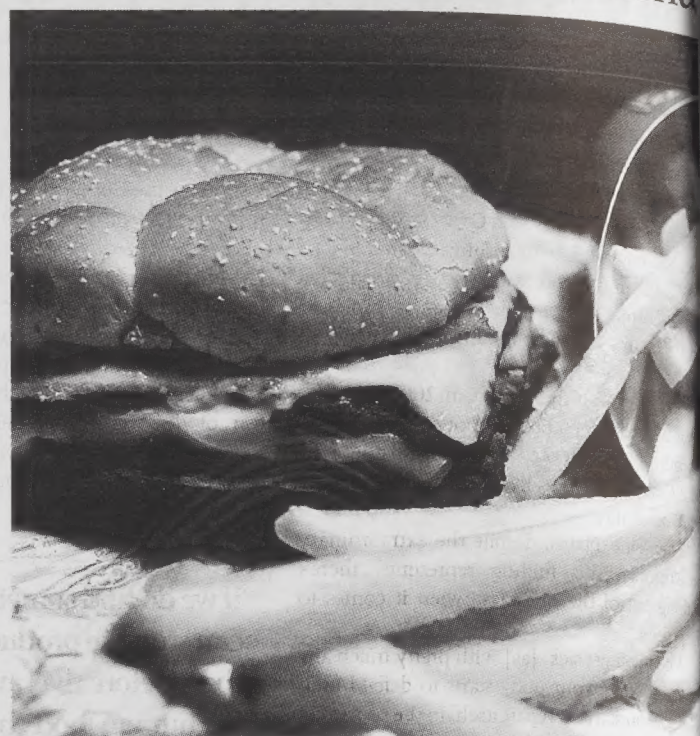


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: CYRIL BAUTIER

RESTRICTED AIRWAYS Researchers have shown that ingesting high amounts of fast food as a child can nullify the protective effects of breastfeeding on asthma.

breastfed for a longer time period and who did not become high consumers of fast food in later childhood," the results of the study stated.

Even with the results in hand, Kozyrskyj's team acknowledges the shortcomings of their study, including how it didn't take into account the child's diet throughout their entire life.

"We asked about it later on in life, so we don't know [...] at what time periods [the children] started to eat fast foods. It's important to know if this diet occurred before the development of asthma," she said.

Kozyrskyj also added that their

questions were very broad and the observations were interesting, but she cautions over-interpreting the data.

"The intent was that our findings would prompt others to test this question properly," she said.

Kozyrskyj explained that fast food has often been associated with negative effects, not only in this study, but in others as well.

"It would be an appropriate recommendation for parents to monitor and try to curtail the intake of fast food for their children," she stated.

Kozyrskyj is currently looking for MSc and PhD students to continue further research in this area.

STUDENT HEALTH PLAN REFERENDUM

Students will vote on the following referendum question on the ballot in the March 4 and 5 students' union election:

Do you support the establishment of an undergraduate health and dental plan as of the Fall semester of 2009, subject to the following conditions:

1. Students have the ability to opt out of the health and/or dental plan;
2. The health and dental plan would cost each student \$192.34 per year for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 academic year, said fee being assessed by the University with tuition and other non-academic fees;
3. That in subsequent years, any increase or decrease in the cost of the plan will be subject to approval by Students' Council;
4. That the SU Executive be authorized to enter into the necessary contractual agreements with Studentcare.net/works contingent upon the inclusion of acceptable transparency and accountability provisions;
5. That a fee for the undergraduate health and dental plan would continue to be assessed until;
 - a) A duly constituted SU referendum is conducted to rescind the fee and program; or,
 - b) Such a time that Studentcare.net/works terminates the agreement.

Interested in getting involved with the referendum?"

Attend the Side Selection meeting on Friday 13th at 6:00pm and register as a member of the Yes or No side. At this meeting a Campaign Manager for each side will be elected. You must attend this meeting to be a member of the side. Please bring your OneCard.

Side Selection Meeting

Friday February 13th, 6:00pm
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For more information visit:

vote
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For more information about how to register as a member of a plebiscite or referendum side, please email the Chief Returning Officer at cro@su.ualberta.ca

Blood test for MCD studied

U of C prof has developed a test for mad cow disease in live animals

KIRSTEN GORUK
Deputy News Editor

The answer to Alberta's Mad Cow Disease (MCD) troubles might lie in something as simple as a run-of-the-mill blood test, or so says a recent study led by Dr Christoph Sensen, a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary.

Work began on the project in 2005 and four years later, testing for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)—more commonly known as Mad Cow Disease—in live animals has become a real possibility.

As Sensen explains, despite the extraordinary breakthrough this finding represents, there's nothing out of the ordinary when it comes to the process.

"When you get sick, [as] with pretty much any chronic disease, your body starts to defend itself against it and starts to repair itself. In the process of doing this some cells shed certain [particles] into the blood which contain DNA. What we do is take the blood, we take a sample—just ten minutes like you would also give to a doctor," he stated.

From there, he and his team of researchers extracted the DNA for sequencing.

"We've done a comparison of all the sequences that we have found in the diseased animals and in the healthy animals as a control. We found patterns in the DNA sequences that are related to BSE and Chronic Wasting Disease [which affects elk]," Sensen added.

And as Sensen pointed out, this kind of testing has a multitude of possible applications, including ones for humans.

"Chronic diseases in general all have a host response. The company that we work with has shown that this also works for cancer and diabetes in some cases. This is a more generic thing [that's] emerging and we're still trying to find out how far it goes," he stated.

Despite the success of the project, Sensen

admits that the end result exceeded even his own expectations.

"We wanted only to show that in principal, this works, a proof of concept. But it went far beyond that. Now we have patterns that we have patented, which you don't normally get out of a proof of concept," he noted.

Since May 2003, there have been 15 reported cases of BSE in Canada. In a province like Alberta, which prides itself on its beef production, the fear of discovering another case is constantly looming. It's the reason why Sensen feels that this research represents a huge step forward for the industry.

"If we do find something, we can stop the production right there before they even go into the human food chain."

DR CHRISTOPH SENSEN
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY PROFESSOR

"If we can really do this cleanly and monitor blood samples of live animals, we can actually screen all of them eventually. We can pool the samples and as long there is no contamination with BSE, we can just slaughter them and serve them to Japan and wherever we want," he said.

"If we do find something, we can stop the production right there before they even go into the human food chain and eliminate the animals we don't want to eat."

Still, those eager to try out a test kit of their own will have to remain patient for a bit longer.

"We have another few years of research to do, unfortunately, like in all cases. I'd say about three or four more years and then it'll be out [...] We still have to explore the boundaries of what we do," Sensen said.

REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL, LIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Dr. John Kennelly's first term as Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences will end on June 30, 2009, and he has indicated that he intends to seek a second term in office. Therefore, a Review Committee has been established in accordance with University regulations.

The Review Committee is interested in your opinions about the state of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences under the leadership of the current Dean. The Committee believes it is critical that all faculty, staff and students in the Faculty and other members of the community have the opportunity to convey their views to the Committee. All input must be signed; however, members of the community may ask the Provost to have their input circulated to the committee without attribution.

Specifically, the Committee is interested in the following:

- 1) **Leadership** – ability to provide a vision and direction for the Faculty and achieve its strategic goals;
- 2) **Management** – fairness, balance and effectiveness in decision-making affecting the direction of the Faculty and effectiveness in setting priorities and dealing with issues;
- 3) **Personnel Management** – issues dealing with the recruitment and retention of staff, as well as the administration of all personnel within the Faculty;
- 4) **Contributions** – the contributions of the Dean within the Faculty, the University, the Community (including alumni), and professional fields;
- 5) **Development** – the success of the Faculty in achieving its goals with resources available and the effectiveness of the Dean in seeking outside funding through fund development and advancement activities;
- 6) **Communications** – the effectiveness of both internal and external communications;
- 7) **Other matters.**

If you wish to respond to the above issues, please forward your comments/advice no later than **Monday, March 23, 2009** to my attention at the address below:

Carl G Amrhein
Provost and Vice-President (Academic) & Chair, Dean Review Committee
2-10 University Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB T6G 2J9
OR E-Mail: provost@ualberta.ca

In addition, an open 'Public Forum' will be held on **Tuesday, March 10, 2009**, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in 231 Medical Sciences Building. At the Forum, the Dean will discuss his vision of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences for the next five years.

Your views are important to us and I encourage you to share your thoughts with the committee. Dean Kennelly's review is based on the position description in effect at the time of his appointment. We have posted the description for your reference (see <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/provost/pdfs/alespositionprofile.pdf>). Should you prefer to submit your comments to another member of the Committee, please feel free to do so. Please contact any member of the Dean Review Committee or myself for additional information.

Thank you for your assistance.

Carl G Amrhein
Provost and Vice-President (Academic) & Chair, Dean Review Committee

AGRICULTURAL, LIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES DEAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

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Max Amerongen	780-915-2256	max.amerongen@ualberta.ca

The information during this consultation is collected under the authority of Section 18 and Section 32 of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) for the purpose of the review of the Dean. Questions regarding the collection, use or disposal of this information should be addressed to the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic, 2-10 University Hall, University of Alberta T6G 2J9; Telephone: (780) 492-3920.

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For More Information Contact:

Brett Howard

BMSC Ambassador at U of A
bh4@ualberta.ca

Beth Rogers

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U of C group has a right to expression

FREE SPEECH IS NOT A STRANGER TO UNIVERSITY campuses, which are often seen as bastions of liberal thought and expression that in their essence test the boundaries of how far a person can go in expressing their beliefs. This month, a pro-life group at the University of Calgary pushed the limits and rather than being met with acceptance, they have been met with censorship and constraint.

Over the past two weeks, three members of the U of C Campus Pro-Life (CPL) group have been charged with trespassing for refusing to leave campus after rebuffing a directive to visually obstruct graphic images used in a "Genocide Awareness Project" put on by the group back in November.

The CPL first came under fire by University administration last semester over their display project, which showed photos of aborted fetuses alongside graphic images of the Holocaust and Rwandan genocide. The U of C ordered the images turned inwards so that passers-by could avoid the demonstration more easily, but a majority of the CPL executive decided not to comply and went forward with the project as planned.

The University's response to the display was unsympathetic. Security guards were placed next to major walkways near the display to assuage fears of violence and complaints, and administrators threatened club members with arrest, fines, and non-academic misconduct before eventually applying formal trespassing charges. The U of C Students' Union also voted to revoke club status and privileges for CPL.

What began as an abortion debate has shifted to an equally controversial discussion of freedom of speech and the limits on what a group should be able to display on campus. Freedom of expression is enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as a fundamental right. It's one of those founding cornerstones of a liberal democracy that's so ingrained in society that we've come to take it for granted.

The U of C certainly hasn't lived up to these principles of freedom of speech with their recent actions. While they had a valid right to request that the display be turned inwards—and while the group would have been in their right minds to do so—the U of C's censorship is dampening the right that each person has to express his or her views and opinions, and instituting a value judgment instead.

This isn't to say that there aren't inherent problems with freedom of speech as it relates to obscenity. I don't want to walk outside every morning and see my overweight, balding neighbour shovel the snow in his birthday suit. And I agree that pictures of aborted fetuses and mass atrocities aren't pleasant in any way, shape, or form, and constitute what Maragaret Wente describes as "hysterical campaigns." But unlike the positive right to freedom of speech that the CPL claims under the *Charter*, I don't have a similar protected right to not be offended. Such is the trade-off of free speech and it's a trade-off that I'll gladly take.

Despite the fact that the display was visible and offensive, those walking by still had the choice not to look at it, or to take an alternate route to class and avoid the Genocide Awareness Project completely. No one was harmed in the process and now students are left defending a constitutionally guaranteed right to express their beliefs—even if they're beliefs that the U of C can't agree with.

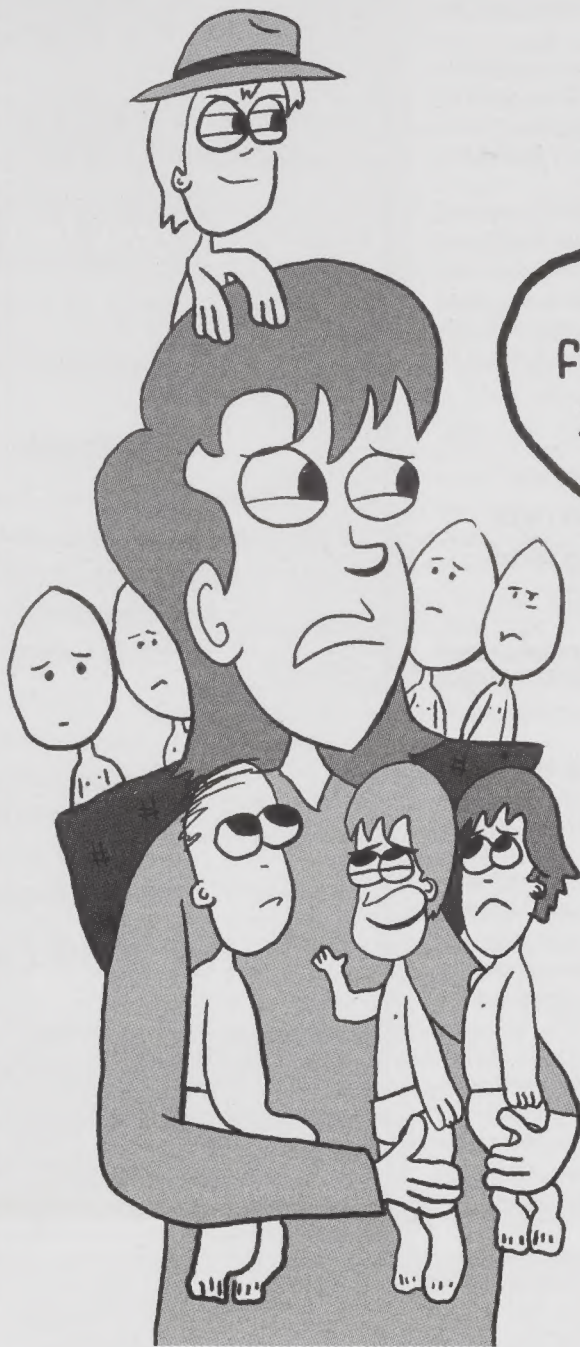
November marked the seventh appearance of the Genocide Awareness Project at the U of C, though in previous years it had mostly been held off-campus at the request of the SU. After seven appearances and similar displays in other cities across Canada and the United States—mirroring how the years keep progressing and our rights keep expanding—it seems that the U of C is taking a step backwards in taking students to court over their freedom of expression.

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

She got no lovey-dovey

Chris beats Rihanna
His biggest hit of the year
Featuring T-Pain

NICK FROST
Sports Editor



I do admit to taking, from the period of 2001 to 2006, and again in 2008, baby-enhancing drugs.

LANCE
Evan

LANCE AND EVAN MUDRYK

LETTERS

Recent postsecondary funding owed to CASA

Mr Kendrick's assertion in the 3 February *Gateway* that CASA can claim no responsibility for the \$2 billion of dedicated postsecondary infrastructure spending in the recent federal budget (re: "Recession, unions screw universities") is absurd.

As a priority chosen by CASA membership, funding deferred maintenance was made central in the CASA pre-budget submission and then aggressively lobbied on. CASA staff coordinated with other partner organizations in the sector, met with leadership from all parties, with a series of bureaucrats and with the Finance Minister's senior staff (at the request of Minister Flaherty's office). Lobbying is a tricky thing; sometimes it's about imposing your issues on government, other times it's about convincing government how to target their priorities to address your issues. In this budget cycle, CASA has excelled at the latter.

Mr Kendrick might not think that \$2 billion dollars will go very far, but Alberta's share could address nearly one-third of the deferred maintenance that this province has. The U of A alone stands to receive between \$50-80 million of that funding, a sizable chunk of the institution's deferred maintenance costs.

The job of the Students' Union is to pursue every opportunity to make the lives of students better. We joined CASA because we simply couldn't ignore the increasing attention the

federal government was paying to postsecondary education. Five years ago, it would have been unheard of to see a \$2 billion infrastructure investment from the federal government for universities and colleges, especially in a deficit budget. It is our belief that this will be a continuing trend on the federal level.

The *Gateway* doesn't like that the SU joined CASA—that much has been made clear in no fewer than six editorial pieces over the last year. Chief among the criticism is a vacuous allegation that the SU decided to join CASA this summer while no one was looking, bypassing debate and accountability on the issue. This wouldn't sound so hollow had this very paper not declared in their 13 March issue that "At long last, the debate over whether or not the SU should pursue membership with CASA is over," alluding to the end of a lengthy public discussion of the CASA question throughout the previous council year.

As with any SU expenditure, we will be constantly reviewing whether the money we are putting into CASA is delivering an acceptable return, but I'd suggest our inaugural year has done well for U of A students so far.

BEVERLY EASTHAM
SU Vice President (External)

Students need a voice

In his piece, Mike Kendrick suggests that there is little worth in a national student organization. The facts suggest otherwise.

It is only by working together that students have won major victories. Look no further than this historic

introduction of Canada's first national system of grants in 2008. The new, non-partisan program will help more than 245 000 students beginning in fall 2009. This is real progress, and not possible without a nationally-coordinated advocacy campaign.

The recession means that Canadians are increasingly turning to postsecondary education to prepare for changing labour market demands. This could mean an opportunity for significant federal investment and policy changes. Conversely, a looming federal deficit requires the student movement to unite to oppose potential social spending cuts.

But the student movement can't succeed as a decentralized collection of transient partnerships. Support staff, faculty members, and university presidents don't organize themselves this way, and neither should we. We need a national student organization to unite our efforts and fight for our rights.

KATHERINE GIROUX-BOUGARD
National Chairperson, CFS

Oscar commentary weak

While I'm glad that you made your choices after having seen most of the movies (re: "You give me Oscar fever," 5 February), I feel I need to point some things out. Especially a few factual errors.

First, for Best Director, the Cohen brothers won last year, not Paul Thomas Anderson. As well, this award is the one of the best predictors of best picture. To look at the past ten awards given out, more than just *Titanic* and *LOTR* took home both director and picture. Between

that time seven out of ten directing awards and best picture awards went to the same film—did you forget *No Country for Old Men* last year, or *The Departed* the year before?

As well, to say that the make-up nomination for *The Dark Knight* was only because Heath Ledger died is, in my opinion, unfair and in bad taste.

Likewise, in the visual effects department, *Button's* visuals aren't just one battle scene—it's the aging technique that was used. The focus is on how they put Brad Pitt's face onto that of the old man body—not the battle scene alone.

While only loosely based on F Scott Fitzgerald's work, the writers of *Button* didn't just slap around *Forrest Gump*. While similar, I agree, it is based on Fitzgerald's work as well.

I also want to point out that Best Original Score is "original." *Wall•E* used a lot of music from other mediums that would not be a part of the score.

Finally, for best original screenplay, to say that *Wall•E* didn't have a screenplay is to say a silent film doesn't either. A screenplay isn't just the words said, but the actions done—which are a lot harder to write.

While I mainly want to point out that you made some factual errors about directors, I also feel some comments that were made were very harsh and I just wanted to tell you.

IAN FITZGERALD
Via email

Note to U of A: self-censor

I forget where I saw it (on the U of A website), but in the U of A viewbook, PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 11

Singles needn't cower in shame

DAVID
JOHNSTON



We're quickly approaching Valentine's Day—that magical day when happy couples frolic joyfully in tiny bistros and elegant paddleboats shaped like animals, while disgruntled single people glare at them from behind potted hydrangeas, shaking their fists angrily, and muttering disjointed curses under their breath. Not that I'd know anything about that latter group.

Seriously, though, it's not a date for the layperson. Saint Valentine, after all, is the patron saint of happy marriages and love, so it feels like the entire holiday is surrounded by a metaphoric chain-link fence, framed by a picture of Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, and a sign saying "You Must Be This Coupled To Enter."

But for all of the uncommitted apophobes out there, it can seem like a real downer of a holiday. A good night to sit at home on a double-date with Ben and Jerry, whiling away the hours and trying not to think about all the fun and good-lovin' that all of your friends are getting on with their significant others. Does this sound like you? Because it kinda sounds like me.

I blame my current singleness on

the fact that I've always smugly labeled myself as a "hopeless romantic," which you should never do, because the first part of that description always overshadows the second, and that's not really something that you want potential dates to be presented with. Mostly, though, it's because that cute girl rejected me in sixth grade, and I've been mentally pasting her face onto other bodies ever since, which has led to some very awkward conversations at the DMV. Ha, ha, Michelle—call me. I know where you live.

El Valentino is also the patron saint of (wait for it) not fainting. You hear that, single people? You don't need to be in a relationship to celebrate 14 February—you just have to be conscious.

So it seems at first like all the singletons should just up and commit mass-suicide together, but none of us are outgoing enough to schedule a group thing. Still, there's a silver lining under this dark cloud of rejection and bad dates. Why? Because Saint Valentine did more than just encourage mid-winter canoodling. He was so much more than that. For instance, did you know that Valentine is also the patron

saint of beekeepers? So if you're an apiphile, or a honey fetishist, then you have license to celebrate, single or not. Just don't post any pictures on the Internet.

In addition, Saint Valentine is the saint of epileptics. Which does go in hand with the beekeeper thing, I suppose, but since he's also the patron saint of the plague, then it's clear that he opens his denominations to all unwell people who can seizure tumor-row!

And there's more. Seriously, I think that the Catholic church had a few rounds of layoffs and reorganizations, because El Valentino is also the patron saint of (wait for it) *not fainting*. You hear that, single people? You don't need to be in a relationship to celebrate 14 February, you just have to be conscious. It's so easy. Now the singletons can cheerfully go to a swanky restaurant and sit at a table for two and when the waiter asks where your date is, you can fire back with "my date is the collective human consciousness." Bring a video camera, because I'm sensing some very funny YouTube videos here.

So remember: you don't need a date to enjoy Valentine's Day. There's nothing wrong with being a clever, intelligent single person at this time of year. It's perfectly possible for us to not be dater-haters, but just exist on the same level of happiness and genuine human goodness. And to everyone who is in a relationship: remember, we don't hate you. Just don't rub our noses in it. Also, we hate you.

One by one, we can be the better world we wish for.

- Kobi Yamada

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FINUED FROM PAGE 10

is a picture of a dug-up corpse from in expedition (in colour). It's supposed to say that a professor at the U of A is possible in the research someone call for it to be removed? A picture of an Egyptian mummy, say, is acceptable academic porn, but a picture of a stic stiffie is just a bad omen for prospective students

GARY LAI
Via email

50/50 ripoff a real choker

Saturday night, I was at the Golden Bear versus Lethbridge. I bought some 50/50 tickets to support the woman's rugby team. Quite a worthy cause. When the number was drawn, it wasn't mine. This is expected, not a big deal. Now comes the brutal part: five minutes later, they announced that the prize wasn't claimed and called my number instead. I was pumped. I went to claim my prize and I was greeted by a woman from the rugby team. She had this horrified look on her face. I was told that the announcers weren't supposed to call the second number yet, and that it was a mistake. It ended up being over \$500. I was really choked, especially when the lady ended up been from Lethbridge. This was the most disappointing event of my life, which really means I should have nothing to complain about.

LOUIS STANG
Via email

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be under 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student number to be considered.

Not disinterested, just lazy

CONAL
PIERSE



talking—a clever ruse that disguises the fact that one or more of the parties got together for the sole purpose of knocking boots. Next comes foreplay, otherwise known as "things you have to do to get someone to take off their pants"—sure, it's fun and all, but that can take up to a half hour that could have been used to make a sandwich instead.

Then there's the sex—which, I must say, is good times—and finally you have cuddling, post-sex chit-chatting, and other such things designed to keep someone awake. And that's great, and it's a hell of a time, but sometimes we just want to get in, get out, and get back to watching *The Wire*. Which is where masturbation comes in.

Jerking off satisfies our natural impulses, while simultaneously taking up a minimal amount of time. It's the swiss army knife of sexual release—practical, easy to use, and useful in almost any situation. Whether we're relieving anger, trying to fall asleep, or just waiting for water to boil, a quick wank is both incredibly versatile and useful.

There's no foreplay required, you can quit in the middle if you get tired, and after just a few short minutes, you're right back to sitting on your ass and doing what you want to do.

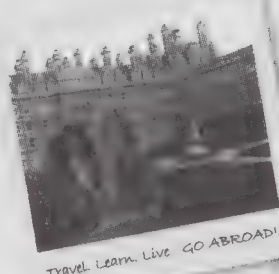
This isn't to discount how great sexual intimacy can be with a partner, because it's a truly wonderful thing. But the fire that burns in a man's loins isn't always suited to endless, exhausting nights of red-hot passionate love-making, because that's tiring and we have shit to do.

So ladies, please, don't be insulted when your man's unrelenting sexual advances eventually simmer down—it's not that he's disinterested, he's just lazy.

First you have the necessary pre-sex

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Couples' attire is a little too snuggly

Love-birds in matching jumpsuits and conjoined accessories make me nauseous



MIKE
DADURAL

Being single for eighteen lonely years can do quite a number on one's self-esteem. And the fact that Valentine's Day is just around the corner and couples everywhere will be walking the streets in full force doesn't exactly make us unhitched men and women feel any better. But although one is the loneliest number from time to time, I can at least find solace in that fact that I don't have to put up with the crazy things that couples wear from time to time.

The "unavailable" who happen to be reading this are probably shaking their heads right now. But deny it all you want: I'm onto you guys and your colour-coordinated clothing schemes. Showing public displays of affection pretty much let us all know that you're together, but that doesn't mean that you can wear matching flashy shirts to further emphasize that fact.

What's bugs me is that a number of small-time companies are beginning to see the potential for couple-oriented articles of clothing, and it scares me to think that there are people out there who actually think that these things would be really cute to wear.

For starters, as I was surfing the

Internet, I happened to stumble across a product called "smittens," which are literally mittens specifically crafted for couples. If you're having a tough time trying to picture what a smitten might look like, think of it this way: if a bottle of crazy glue and two frisky pairs of mittens were to ever get down and dirty, smittens would be the horrifying result of this mess.

Showing public displays of affection pretty much let us all know that you're together, but that doesn't mean that you can wear matching flashy shirts to further emphasize that fact.

Besides making interested couples look super lame, they're designed to force them to desperately cling to each other's clammy hands during even the most extreme of arctic conditions.

What baffles me the most about these things, besides the detail that some people actually wear them, is the fact that you have to dish out at least \$40 to get a pair. One really should have to ask themselves, "is \$40 really worth having to constantly feel the sweat emanate from another person's hand in -30 degree weather?"

Out of those who don't even find these accessories obnoxious enough some of you may be wondering if there's anything for a duo who prefer a little more intimacy. Sadly, there is. If you're looking for something that both you and your special someone can wear to spice your relationship up, look no further than "fundies" which pretty much translates into "fun underwear." Not picturing them? Just think smittens, but quite a lot cozier. Let me also mention the fact that this pair of knickers comes standard-equipped with two rear ends.

I can understand that these monstrosities were aimed at couples that have entered a very intimate point in their relationship, as it would be just plain awkward getting this for someone you just started seeing. But let's be honest, regardless of the stage that you're currently at, what happens when one of you has to go to the bathroom? Sometimes you just have to sacrifice sexiness for a little bit of practicality.

Enough with the public displays of gratuitous affection: whatever happened to just saying that you're in a relationship on Facebook? Believe it or not, it's actually a really effective way to get the word out. And in terms of dignity, it sure beats having to subject someone else to wearing conjoined-mittens for an extended period of time.

Pass on the apparel for apparent relationships; you're probably better off wearing a shirt that says "I'm with stupid"—at least we won't be laughing at you.

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Not all true stories end happily ever after



ALICE
DOLPHIN

"Once or twice, I fancied that I might adore someone. I wrote questioning entries in my journal, scattered with the burning words 'do I love him?' The answer always turned out to be 'no.' I would forget him over the course of the next few days and then creep on to new prey."

Ah, love. The emotion that sets your heart a flutter and sometimes makes you want to vomit with nervousness. It can and will send many a person into a frantic tailspin this Valentine's Saturday, as they try to lasso the moon for their babycakes.

My heart, however, is immune to the emotion. It sits like a wrinkled prune in my chest, refusing to skip or flutter in the presence of others. Therefore, this Saturday, I will be lolling about in my underwear, suckling on truffles, and perfecting my sugar coma.

This is because I have never ever, not once, been in love. Sure, my loins stir in the presence of a particularly fine specimen of the male sex, but my heart stays stock-still. Once or twice, I fancied that I might adore someone. I wrote questioning entries in my journal, scattered with the burning words "do I love him?" The answer always turned out to be "no." I would forget him over the course of the next few days and then creep on to new prey.

It's tempting to call myself an utterly heartless person, incapable of the most human emotion, but I do love. My friends, my family, my pets, and my Wii all earn my most sincere affection. But to actually be "in love"? No thanks; I would rather

stay out in the promiscuous winds of singledom.

Not that I'm promiscuous. In fact, it's rather the opposite. Let me illustrate my titillating life of passion: my first kiss was a drunken dare at the ripe age of 17, fraught with bumped noses and slimy tongues—not exactly the stuff of heartfelt confessions or glowing eyes.

Since then, I have groped about with three other guys (each was a one time thing, and one of them, in a very classy sober moment, was a stranger on Whyte). Then came my first boyfriend at the decrepit age of 19. He pecked me once in an "oh so fiery" moment on the neck and, other than perfunctory cuddling, that was it.

So it's far from shocking that a virgin like me with a patchy sexual education has never had the cupid-ity to serenade anyone with feverous ballads. I'm just not one of those people who can easily transform a wee little crush into "creamy dreamy infatuation."

If anyone says something along the lines of "don't worry; you'll fall in love eventually" again, I'm going to beat them until they are bloody with a jagged cardboard heart. Love isn't necessarily inevitable, but everyone treats it like it's some final destination that every one of us is eventually

headed for. I, on the other hand, remain dubious.

Many people adamantly state that they need to be entangled with their gooey-eyed soul mate in order to feel whole. But we're already complete. I know that a lot of you are probably thinking that this is just pathetic singles' drivel, but we are dammit.

I'm certainly not saying that it wouldn't be fun to be dizzy in love or even have a spicy fling, but I have the tendency to sabotage relationships because I think that flirting is about teasing men and belittling their manhood. I'm usually joking, but use some jests and the fragile male ego collapses. Maybe I should consider reigning in my mouth before it gallops away with "stupid" and "you pansies."

So is that it? Have I never loved because I swat away boys that bat their eyes and hint at intimacy? Well, after that shameless self-plug, does anyone want to sweep me out of my loveless existence and show me the way, showering me with mass produced chocolates and cards? Anyone? No?

Well, if you happen to change your mind, I will be watching Shakespeare in Love this weekend and fattening myself with a big bag of Hershey's kisses.

Treatment for premature ejaculation is an attack on natural talent



PAUL
KNOECHEL

Premature ejaculation. Yeah, I said it—don't act like I hit you with a dutch rudder (or even slammed your head in a dutch oven door). All the world over, there are men who can't hold it back and lose out on repeat hook-ups as well as satisfying their wives.

Premature ejaculation robs countless scores of the sexually active from having a truly satisfying experience, like your first summer learning saddle-back riding. Which is why J&J Pharmaceuticals is developing a new medication to help with the condition. And while some out there may rejoice in this breakthrough, I must denounce it on the most heinous grounds imaginable—the grounds that it's not in my best interest.

I'm not going to condemn the pill-popping culture of western society, where most people would rather simply take medication for heart

conditions than eat nothing but blumpkins, Texas chili bowls, and over-buttered lobster claws. Or where the tag-team of ADD medications and antidepressants are obscenely over-prescribed, allowing everyone to avoid actually having to deal with their shortcomings. No—I'm here to condemn a cursed action that is going to take away from my natural man-whoring ability.

No, the fact that 30 per cent of the male population blow their load too early means that, as an unremarkable yet consistent sexual performer, I have an automatic one-up on a full third of my counterparts. I don't need to be some globetrotter that saw the Eiffel Tower or just a simple New Delhi Dot, because the bar's been set so low.

I can't even count the number of times I've gotten laid by some "sterile Sheryl" because I utilized the pick up line "hey baby, I can last longer than a lawnmower in the desert." And that's not even mentioning what I've historically received out of dropping subtle hints to all of my buddies' long-term, sexually dissatisfied girlfriends (and dude, if you're reading this, it's not you—don't worry).

But if these guys can suddenly just pop a pill and make everything better, what's going to happen to the ranks of the sexually unexciting

and uninspiring? I mean, these quick-poppers have trained for years in order to make up for their shortcomings, and if they get a level playing field in the bedroom, a swamp donkey like myself is screwed—in the most figurative sense, that is.

The fact that 30 per cent of the male population blow their load too early means that, as an unremarkable yet consistent sexual performer, I have an automatic one-up on a full third of my counterparts.

I mean, it might even get so bad that I'll actually have to make an effort to improve my own sexual performance and stop watching Tokyo Drift on a loop while greeting people with the Vulcan hand gesture (I prefer to just call it "the Spocker"). And if there's one thing that Paul "Magic Show" Knoechel will not stand for, it's having to put any degree of genuine effort into something.

While some may see all of this as being as

inevitable as an Alaskan pipeline, there are at least two possible solutions to this whole thing. One is that I start taking the medication with all the others out there, so that while they're posting normal times I can start pumping my game up to the point where a session is measured in hours.

But I'm not interested in putting any more chemicals inside my body given my already copious use of alcohol, caffeine, and THC, as well as the occasional wormwood distillation. So we can count that out like animal rights groups count out dolphin-flogging or beaver-poaching on their lists of family-friendly activities.

The other and more sensible solution is to simply halt the production of this medication and let it die like the pterodactyl. Let's not tip the status quo, people. This drug is a menace, the likes of which the world has never seen. The kind that does social damage worthy of a classic dope propaganda campaign.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm off to meet one of my friends' girlfriends in a completely platonic and completely non-sexual study session, deep within the Rutherford stacks. You know, where the sound doesn't carry and you could totally rusty fishhook a chick and no one would hear it.

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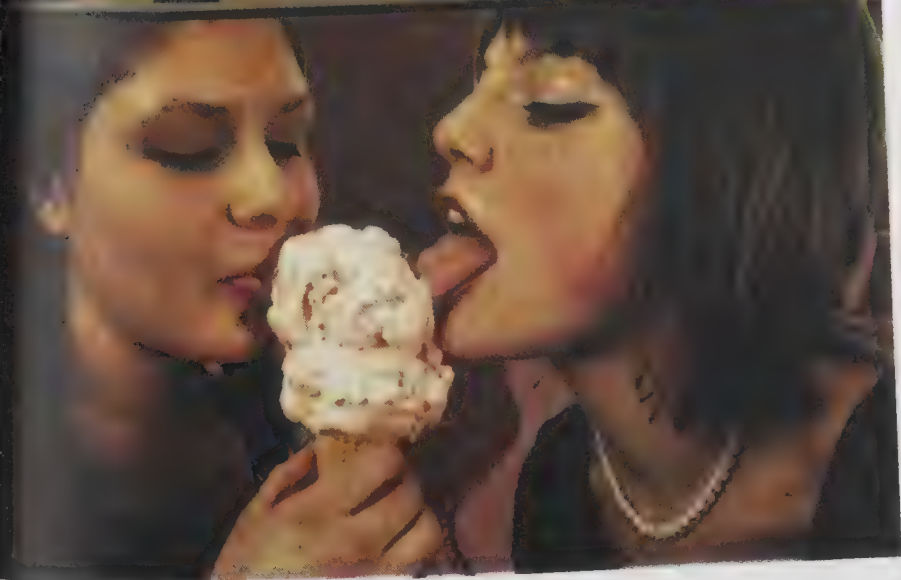
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Once they had a
taste they just
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THE TASTE OF SIN



Hey there all you crazy dames and gents! This here's that snazzy test that gets all the cool cats flipping their lids and airing their laundry. But whether you're knee-deep in dirt or dancing with angels, we're sure that you'll be positively tickled by our sultry little survey.



Pleasure at Midnight

Here you'll find dirty deeds done in the throes of passion.

- Have you ever held hands? (1pt)
- Have you ever parked at make-out point? (1pt)
- Have you ever porked at make-out point? (3pts)
- Have you ever kissed someone without knowing their name? (2pts)
- Have you ever had a hickey? (1pt)
- Did you try to cover it up with a scarf or sweater? (1pt)
- Have you ever had a handjob? (2pts)
- Blowjob? (3pts)
- Footjob? (4pts)
- Nosejob? (5pts, unless it involved cosmetic surgery)

- Have you ever had sex? (5pts, -10pts if you're still a virgin)
- Have you ever made whoopee? (-1pt for being a pussy)
- Have you ever had anal sex? (4pts)
- Have you ever sailed the red sea? (5pts)
- Did you drink from it? (10pts)
- Have you ever engaged in BDSM? (5pts)
- Did you use your safe word? (-2pts)
- Have you ever been in a three-way? (3pts)
- An orgy? (5pts, plus one for every participant after the first five)
- Have you ever passed out during sex? (3pts)
- Because you were too drunk? (4pts)
- Because you were being choked? (5pts)

- Do you practice safe sex? (-1pt)
- Do you practice abstinence? (-5pts)

Do you practice "restricted access" (-4.1pts)

- Have you ever had sex ...
- in the shower? (2pts)
- in a hot tub? (3pts)
- in a public swimming pool? (-1pt—you know that kids pee in that thing, right?)
- while standing? (1pt)
- in the wheelbarrow position? (2pts)
- Have you ever done it doggy-style? (1pt)
- While a dog watches? (2pts)
- While a child watches? (3pts)
- Was it for educational purposes? (-5pts)

- Have you ever heard someone have sex? (1pt)
- Did you masturbate to it? (10pts)
- Was it your parents? (15pts)

- Have you ever had sex outdoors? (2pts)
- While there were other people around? (4pts)
- On a roof? (2pts)
- Was it on fire? (5pts for the roof, 2pts for the sex)
- In Quad? (2pts)
- During the affordability campout? (5pts)
- Were you still wearing your red scarf? (-5pts, unless you used it for choking)

- Have you ever contracted:
- chlamydia? (3pts)
- the clap? (3pts)
- syphilis? (3pts)
- genital warts? (3pts)
- HIV? (10pts)
- A child? (10pts)
- A plumber? (-2pts, unless he fixed the clog in your pipes)



Have you ever taken Cialis or Viagra? (2pts)
 Because someone told you to? (1pt)
 Because you bought it cheap in Mexico and wanted to try it out? (4pts)
 Because you suffer from Erectile Dysfunction? (-1pt, you poor bastard)
 Did your boner last longer than four hours? (4pts—look at you go)
 Did you have to consult a physician? (5pts)
 Did you try drinking until you passed out to get rid of it? (5pts)

Have you ever had sex in a car? (1pt)
 Was it fast and furious? (2pts)
 Was it too fast, too furious? (5pts)
 Did you Tokyo drift? (10pts)
 Were you gone in 60 seconds? (-100pts)
 Have you ever had sex on the hood of a car? (2pts)
 In the trunk of a car? (5pts)
 Alone? (-1pt)

Have you ever grinded with someone in an animal costume? (1pt)
 Have you ever had sex with someone in an animal costume? (5pts)
 Was it Guba or Patches? (10pts)
 Have you ever broken the half-plus-seven rule? (7½ pts)
 Have you ever gone for sloppy seconds? (2pts)
 Dirty thirds? (3pts)
 Uncomfortably dry fourths? (4pts and an appointment with your doctor about the rash)

Have you ever made out during a movie? (1pt)
 Ever had sex during a movie? (2pts)
 Ever had sex in a movie? (5pts)
 Did you see the movie? (10pts)

Have you ever lied for sex? (1pt)
 Cried for sex? (2pts)
 Because you needed the tears for lube? (5pts)
 Have you ever paid for sex? (5pts)
 Prayed for sex? (-5pts)
 Did you give someone an "immaculate" conception? (10pts)

You masturbate. (1pt)
 Have you ever masturbated to porn? (1pt)
 A photo? (1pt)
 In the Gateway? (3pts)
 An illustration? (2pts)
 Of a furry? (-10pts)
 In public? (5pts)

Have you ever fallen asleep masturbating? (1pt)
 Masturbated to fall asleep? (2pts)
 Masturbated for medicinal purposes? (1pt)
 Claimed that your ejaculate had medicinal powers? (2pts)

What is your one-day wanking record? (1pt for every time after the first)
 What's the greatest number of times you've had sex in a 24hr period? (2pts for each time after the first)
 What's the greatest number of partners you've had sex with in a 24hr period? (3pts for each partner after the first)

Have you ever taken someone's flower? (5pts)
 How many letters of the alphabet have you collected? (1pt for each)
 Have you ever slept with members of the same family? (3pts)
 Your family? (20pts)
 Twins? (5pts)
 Conjoined twins? (10pts)
 Siamese twins? (-8pts, racist)

Have you ever had sex at university? (5pts)
 In SUB? (3pts)
 In the SUB elevator? (5pts)
 Did you break the elevators so you could finish? (10pts)
 In Rutherford? (4pts)
 Were you respectfully quiet? (-2pts)
 In Cameron? (4pts)
 In a lecture theatre? (4pts)
 During a lecture? (10pts)
 In the teepee in Quad? (6pts)

Are you the reason the age of consent got raised? (5pts, and stay away from my daughter, you sonofabitch)
 Did you lose your MySpace account recently? (2pts)
 Did you secretly get it back? (10pts)
 Have you ever poked someone on Facebook? (-5pts)
 Did it get you laid? (10pts)
 Have you ever tweeted about your sex life? (1pt)
 During sex? (-5pts—get your head in the game)
 Have you ever been invited to a party in someone's pants? (1pt)
 Over Facebook? (2pts)
 Did you decline? (thanks a lot, Julie)

Have you ever watched porn? (1pt)
 Produced porn? (5pts)
 Reviewed porn? (3pts)
 Have you ever listened to porn for the blind? (1pt)

Have you ever prorogued sex? (2pts)
 Have you ever offered to bail someone out of their underwear? (1pt)
 Did you get to show them your stimulus package? (5pts)

Have you ever been in love? (Awwwwwww, 0pts)
 Have you ever lied about being in love? (2pts)
 To get sex? (3pts)
 To get a discount? (5pts)
 Have you ever broken up with someone? (1pt)
 In person? (1pt)
 Over the phone? (2pts)
 By ignoring them? (3pts)
 With a knock-knock joke? (5pts)
 By claiming to be gay? (10pts)
 By claiming to be straight? (10pts—we're an equal opportunity media outlet)
 Did you update your Facebook status immediately afterwards? (-2pts)

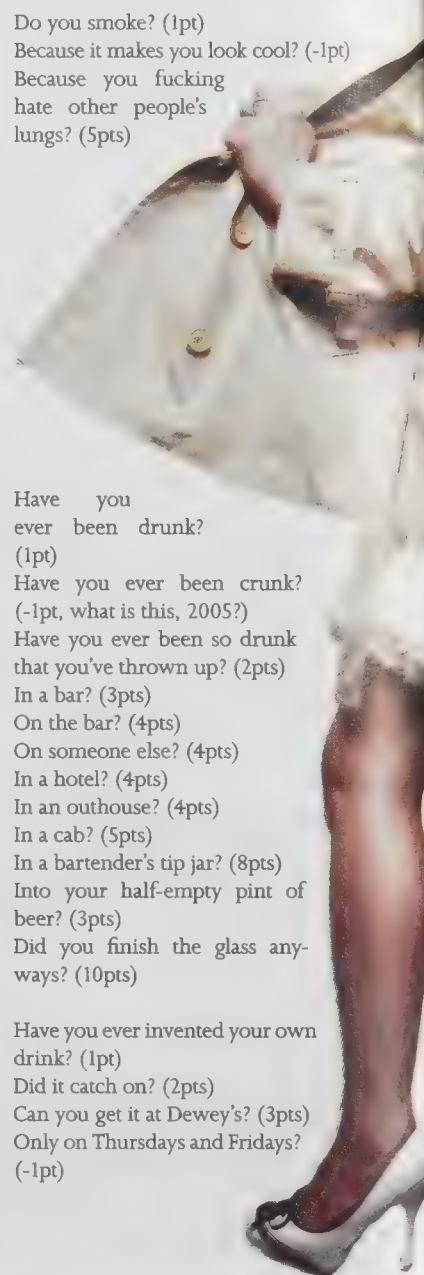
Gutter Gang

Recalling your sordid stories involving mind-altering substances.

Do you smoke? (1pt)
 Because it makes you look cool? (-1pt)
 Because you fucking hate other people's lungs? (5pts)

Have you ever been drunk? (1pt)
 Have you ever been crunk? (-1pt, what is this, 2005?)
 Have you ever been so drunk that you've thrown up? (2pts)
 In a bar? (3pts)
 On the bar? (4pts)
 On someone else? (4pts)
 In a hotel? (4pts)
 In an outhouse? (4pts)
 In a cab? (5pts)
 In a bartender's tip jar? (8pts)
 Into your half-empty pint of beer? (3pts)
 Did you finish the glass anyways? (10pts)

Have you ever invented your own drink? (1pt)
 Did it catch on? (2pts)
 Can you get it at Dewey's? (3pts)
 Only on Thursdays and Fridays? (-1pt)



Have you ever smoked the reefer? (1pt)
 Did it give you madness? (2pts)
 Have you ever been high on:
 Salvia? (1pt)
 Mushrooms? (2pts)
 Acid? (2pts)
 Glue/gas/paint (3pts each)
 Ecstasy? (3pts)
 Speed? (3pts)
 Cocaine? (3pts)
 Meth? (4pts)
 Heroin? (4pts)
 Crushed dandelions because someone told you
 that it would get you "mega stoned?" (-5pts,
 dumbass)

Have you ever brewed your own beer? (2pts)
 Distilled your own moonshine? (3pts)
 Grown your own weed? (3pts)
 Cooked your own meth? (5pts)
 Discovered a new drug? (10pts)
 Have you ever been to a hookah den? (3pts)
 An opium den? (4pts)
 Have you ever peddled dope? (3pts)
 Have you ever been cracked up, smacked up, or
 otherwise on the Johnny? (2pts)
 Have you ever felt the freedom of taking a puff
 on a cool, refreshing Virginia Slim? (1pt)

What's the earliest you've ever been drunk? (1 pt
 before noon, 2pts before 10am, 5pts if you just
 didn't stop)
 What's the earliest you've ever been stoned? (2pts
 before noon, 5pts before 10am, 10pts if you
 couldn't stop because the demons were chasing
 you)

Have you ever chugged a beer? (1pt)
 Shotgunned a beer? (2pts)
 Longed a beer? (3pts)
 Drank a 40? (3pts)
 Finished a two-six? (4pts)
 Have you ever done a body shot? (2pts)
 Out of someone's cleavage? (3pts)
 Out of someone's crackage? (5pts)
 Have you ever snorted alcohol? (5pts)

Have you ever been so drunk that
 you couldn't talk? (3pts)
 That you couldn't walk? (5pts)
 That you passed out? (6pts)
 That you pissed yourself? (7pts)
 That you shit yourself? (8pts)
 Have you ever had alcohol
 poisoning? (10pts)
 Have you ever gone to work
 drunk? (2pts)
 Have you ever drank on the
 job? (3pts)
 Have you ever skipped work
 because you were too drunk?
 (5pts)

Have you ever hotboxed a car?
 (2pts)
 A bathroom/sauna? (3pts)
 A tool shed? (4pts)
 Have you ever constructed your own
 pipe? (3pt)
 Out of produce? (4pts)
 Out of lighting fixtures? (5pts)
 Out of a larger pipe? (-2pts for
 recycling)
 Have you ever built a bong?
 (2pts)
 Did it require complex phys-
 ics? (3pts)
 Did you still fail your physics
 midterm? (-5pts)

Fools Dine on Friday

Do you have any gross
and guilty tales
of gluttony?

Have you ever eaten an entire ham?
 (3pts, -1pt if you didn't finish the last
 bite)
 Eaten the last slice of something you
 didn't own? (1pt)
 Eaten all the slices of something you
 didn't own? (2pts)

Have you ever eaten something past the expira-
 tion date? (2pts)
 Have you ever eaten somebody's leftovers? (1pt)
 Off of an abandoned table? (2pts)
 Out of the garbage? (3pts)
 Have you ever eaten somebody's remains? (10pts)

Have you ever had food poisoning? (2pts)
 Because you knowingly ate tainted food? (3pts)
 So that you could lose weight? (5pts)
 Did it work? (1pt per 5lbs)

Have you ever eaten a whole pie? (1pt)
 In a single day? (2pts)
 On Remembrance Day, out of respect for those
 who fought so hard so that you could have that
 pie? (5pts)

Gone to an all-you-can-eat-buffet? (1pt)
 Eaten until they closed? (3pts)
 Eaten until you closed them? (-2 points, liar)
 Eaten until you threw up? (5pts)
 Sued the restaurant for not getting "all you could
 eat"? (5pts)

Put on the freshman 15? (1pt)
 Worked it off? (-3pts, and nicely done champ)
 Kept it on, plus added a sophomore 60? (5pts)
 Eaten a Wildcat donair from Marco's? (3pts,
 and God help your bowels)
 Drank the leftover sauce from the bag? (5pts,
 but was it worth it?)
 Do you eat All Bran? (-1pt)
 Because it keeps you regular? (-2pts)
 So that you can pass a drug-filled condom?
 (5pts)
 Have you eaten Trix as an adult? (1pt, silly
 rabbit)
 Have you ever counted calories while
 considering eating? (-1pt)
 While considering drinking? (1pt)
 While considering a blowjob? (3pts)

Have you ever gone to the food bank? (-1pt)
 Because you were too cheap to buy food?
 (3pt)
 Because you were too lazy to buy food?
 (5pts)
 Because you needed the cans to build a
 phone? (5pts)

Have you ever participated in an eating
 competition? (2pts)
 How many saltine crackers can you eat in
 a minute without drinking anything? (1pt
 for every cracker after 3, and trust us—your
 educated guess is way off)
 Have you ever eaten an entire animal?
 (2pts)
 Because you didn't want to waste anything?
 (-1pt)
 Because they said it couldn't be done? (5pts)

D for Delinquent

Can we bring you
home to meet mother?

Have you ever rumbled? (1pt)
 With the Socs? (2pts)
 Have you ever started a bar fight? (3pts)
 Ever started a street fight? (5pts)
 Did you pick Blanka? (-5pts for being a cheap
 bitch)
 Have you ever played hooky? (1pt)

Have you ever started a fire? (1pt)
 In the Australian Bush? (3pts)
 Because a koala looked at you funny? (10pts)
 Because Billy Joel didn't? (5pts)

Do you have a tattoo? (1pt)
 Is it a tramp stamp? (2pts)
 Is it someone's name? (3pts, +5 if you're no
 longer dating)
 Someone's phone number because you didn't
 have any paper? (10pts)
 Do you have sleeves? (3pts each)
 Pants? (4pts each)
 Classic evening wear? (5pts)
 A full chest tattoo? (10pts)
 A full back tattoo? (10pts)
 Is it a Dragonball Z mural? (-9000pts)



Have you ever had a piercing? (1pt)
 Eyebrow? (1pt)
 Tongue? (2pts)
 Navel? (3pts)
 Nipple? (5pts)
 Prince Albert/Princess Camilla? (10pts)
 Have you ever gauged your ears? (4pts)
 Have you ever gauged your cock/clit? (10pts, -5 if you thought that this meant measuring it)
 Have you ever gauged someone else's cock/clit? (10pts)

Have you ever fired a handgun? (1pt)
 A shotgun/rifle? (3pts)
 A machinegun? (5pts)
 An RPG? (10pts)

Have you ever shoplifted? (1pt)
 Tresspassed? (2pts)
 Broken and entered? (5pts)
 Committed armed robbery? (10pts)
 Have you ever knocked over a bank? (20pts)
 Knocked over an old lady? (5pts)
 Did you apologize? (-10pts)

Have you ever stolen a song from a jukebox by hitting it just right? (2pts)
 Stolen from a Coke machine by hitting it just right? (3pts)
 Stolen from a prostitute by hitting it just right? (20pts)
 Are you the Fonz? (100pts)
 Have you ever jumped a shark? (10pts)
 Did it ruin your career? (-100pts)

Have you ever punched someone? (1pt)
 Did they deserve it? (1pt)
 Because they stood under your umbrella? (3pts)
 Did your hit feature T-Pain? (10pts)

Have you ever been slapped? (1pt)
 Have you ever slapped someone? (1pt)
 To challenge him/her to a duel? (3pts)

To publicly humiliate him/her? (5pts)

Have you ever punched a pigeon? (10pts)
 Because it was looking at you funny? (3pts)
 Because that bread was meant for ducks? (5pts)

Have you ever been tased? (3pt)
 For fun? (5pt)
 For erotic fun? (8pts)
 Because you don't speak English? (10pts)
 Did you survive? (-1pt)

Have you ever been pepper sprayed? (2pts)
 Hit with a baton? (3pts)
 Subjected to police brutality? (5pts)
 Subjected to police nicety? (-1pt)

Have you ever pirated music? (1pt)
 A movie? (2pts)
 Software? (2pts)
 Have you ever pirated a Saudi Oil tanker? (10pts)

Have you ever carelessly idled? (1pt, you badass)
 Have you ever been caught speeding? (2pts)
 Urinating in public? (3pts)
 Murdering in public? (10pts)
 Looking sooooo fine? (-5pts for cheese)

Have you ever tagged anything with graffiti? (2pts)
 Is it actually legible? (1pt for skillz)
 Was it in a bathroom stall? (-1pt)
 Was it adding to the poo log in CAB? (1pt, but only if your poop was really worth a mention)
 Was it the Listen bird? (-5pts for originality)

Have you ever gambled? (1pt)
 Did you lose? (1pt)
 Can you get it back? (I'll put 5pts on "no")
 Have you ever cheated ...

on a test? (2pts)
 in a card game? (3pts)
 at a casino? (7pts)
 on a significant other? (10pts)
 on the Purity Test? (-20pts)

Super Bonus Lightning Round

The last chance grab for points.

How many Purity Tests have you taken? (1pt for each)
 Did you announce your score on Twitter? (1pt)
 Have you ever had a negative score on the Purity Test? (-100—that's right, you stay down)

Have you ever used the Purity Test to increase your Purity Test score? (5pts)
 Have you ever tried to hook up with someone based on their Purity Test score? (5pts)
 Because they answered yes to anal? (5pts)
 Because they answered yes to virgin? (10pts)

Have you ever tried to pass off somebody else's Purity Test score as your own? (-10pts)
 Was it lower than your actual score? (+10pts)

THE DEAD END GALS



A special thanks goes out to the oh-so-naughty folks at Mars and Venus on Whyte Avenue for lending us such spiffy threads. They're the cat's pyjamas.

Mars & Venus

Add it up...

1-74: Fully dressed and in your right mind

You're just swell. Everyone else's mother asks why their kids can't be as neat-o as you, and can you blame them? You've got good grades, clean nails, and your head's screwed on just right. Have yourself a nice warm glass of milk to celebrate, but don't stay up too late, you've got chores to do in the morning.

Gatewayers in this category: Jen Huygen, Kirsten Goruk, Marie Gojmerac, Sam Brooks, Ross Vincent, David Johnston, Hylie Chan

75-149: Come sin with me

You might think that staying at home's square, but people who park in cars aren't really popular. You're a bit of a goof, to be sure, but your somewhat shady behaviour's no reason to get your parents on the horn pronto. We know you're a good kid, and hope that you button it down soon. Remember, the real cool customers go for choc'lit malts, not beers.

Gatewayers in this category: Cody Civiero, Nick Frost, Kelsey Tanasiuk, Lucas Wagner, Faye Campbell, Eric Chiang, Jonn Kmech

150-249: Fast, loose, and lovely

Booze, skirts, and grass might be tops for you, but that kind of behaviour doesn't razz my berries. You need to stop messing around and find yourself a real job instead of hanging around at pool halls and racing pinks in your hot rods. You used to be such good kids, and it kills me to see you all turned around upstairs. You need to quit the whiskey and get yourself back in orbit.

Gatewayers in this category: Pete Yee, Jonathan Taves, Lauren Alston, Sean Steels

250+: Fraternity of Shame

You're a no-goodnick layabout, and a bad influence on your peers. You might think that your raunchy behaviour is the bee's knees, but it's not. You're haulin' ass to nowheresville, and it's only a matter of time before the heat catches up with you and you wind up in sing-sing. Slam your hooch while you can, because sooner or later, your bad habits will get you a kick right in the wazoo.

Gatewayers in this category: Mike Kendrick, Conal Pierse



SOCIAL
INTERCOURSE

Bachelor of Design and Bachelor of Fine Arts Silent Art Auction and Sale

Thursday, 12 February at 6:30pm
Fine Arts Building, third floor
(89 Ave and 112 St)
Free admission, cash or cheque only for purchases

It's fairly easy to figure out the ideal entertainment for a night like this. Sophisticated art sales occurring under the cover of silence deserve nothing short of grade-A mimes to delight and entertain the masses.

But alas, mime is money, and event organizers didn't see it my way. That's not to say that they didn't come up with some pretty top notch replacement entertainment. The event includes free food, music, and games with prizes to be had, and, more importantly, so much artwork for purchase that you'll burn a hole in your cheque book, you shop-a-holic, you. Available for immediate purchase are a horde of paintings, sculptures, prints, and graphics, all made here at the University of Alberta.

And if you're listening, Billy Crystal, don't be a stranger. I'm sure we can find you an invisible box somewhere.

The Big League

Directed by Carole Higgins

Starring Ryan Anderson, Joel Bernbaum, Lyndsay Johnston, and Andrew Vokey

13 February at 7pm and 14-15 February at 2pm

Westbury Theatre (TransAlta Arts Barns, 10330-84 Avenue)

Tickets \$18.50 for students at tickets.fringetheatre.ca or at box office

The Big League is a story familiar to any Canadian who spent their youth aspiring to be the next Wayne Gretzky. Tommy loves hockey, but his dad is crushing his passion for the game by being a little too vocal from the sidelines. He has to decide how far he'll let his dad go before he stands up for himself and tells him how he feels.

One thing is for certain: while the story might be familiar to young puck chuckers, not many of those young'ins had the legendary Don Cherry or Ron Maclean to guide them through their growing pains.

All right, Bottom Line Theatre Productions couldn't get the real Don or Ron, but it'll be even more fun to watch their thespian doppelgängers march onstage complete with vomit-inspired flowery suits and gigantic, hideously disfigured muggings.

audio/rocketry

With The Be Arthurs

Saturday, 14 February at 4pm

Filthy McNasty's (10511A-82 Ave)

Free

This free show at Filthy McNasty's on Saturday would be the perfect date opportunity this weekend for Valentine's Day. Just think: a free show, and "cheap ass pints" according to audio/rocketry's MySpace page, is slightly lighter on your pocketbook. Plus, your girlfriend doesn't really want a fancy dinner, flowers, chocolate, and a night together—she wants to know that you're being thrifty.

Well, even if you still have all that planned for the night, you can still take in this Edmonton band's acoustic show in the afternoon as a pre-ambule with your sweetie if she's into acoustic folk. And if she's not, well, at least you won't have spent that much money when she finds out that this and sex are all you'd planned when you get a drink tossed in your face.

SEAN STEELS AND JONN KMECH
Down with the sickness

Cheech and Chong's next move

The legendary tokers talk about life, prison, and why their gags are more lasting than Steve Martin's stonerpreview

Cheech & Chong Light Up Canada

Featuring Cheech Marin, Tommy Chong, and Shelby Chong
12 and 15 February
Enmax Hall, Winspear Centre (9720-102 Ave)

JONN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Considering the chances they've taken over the years with their careers, law enforcement, and likely a few shifty back alley dealers, it's surprising to find out that Cheech and Chong, the duo that brought stoner culture to the masses, don't even gamble when they're at a casino.

"No, we don't do that. We're smarter than that. We know not to go there and lose all our money," laughs Shelby Chong, Tommy Chong's cheerful wife and the opening act for the perpetually high duo on their reunion comedy tour, *Cheech and Chong Light Up Canada*. They're in their room at the casino's hotel room, and moments later, she passes the phone to her husband and the Edmonton-born Chong further elaborates with his characteristic laid-back hippie drawl.

"I'm a gambler," Tommy Chong retorts. "I took a big gamble putting my wife in the show. It paid off. Now I got her signed to an exclusive contract so that when she goes out on her own tour, I'll own a piece of her."

Later on, the twice-divorced Cheech Marin notes his own type of high-stakes living: "I'm getting married again," he laughs.

It's a toss of the dice to go out on the road 25 years after they'd parted ways, but so far it's worked out well for the iconic potheads. Tickets have been selling like prime BC hydro and the guys insist that people should make an attempt to catch them this time around, because they're not getting any younger.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see two legendary comedians and Shelby," the 70-year-old Chong states. "It may not happen again. I'm at that age where getting out of the bathtub is a dangerous experience."

"We were going to call it the 'Catch Them Before They Croak' tour," adds the 62-year-old Marin.

Without a new album, movie, or TV show (even though they are working on a script for the sequel to *Up In Smoke*), the tour has still sold out, proving that the duo's cult status and brand of humour still resonates today, competing in a field of comedy that is somewhat more fleeting.

"I saw Steve Martin on Letterman and he's promoting the Pink Panther," says Chong. "I never saw the first Pink Panther. I'm too much of a Peter Sellers fan to ever really enjoy it. And I'm a big Steve Martin fan, but not when he's being Peter Sellers, you know?"

"We have a very strong sense of who we are and what we can do," Tommy continues. "That's why it was so easy to go back what we were doing, because we never really stopped. People criticize us by saying, 'Well, he's just playing himself.' If you can make millions of dollars playing yourself, that's wonderful—as opposed to making money playing somebody else. That's the thing with Steve Martin. He's playing Peter Sellers for money. I'd rather see him play Steve Martin for laughs."

"It's very non-threatening—we're not malicious in any sense," says Marin. "We just go out there and do scenarios that are classic and don't necessarily have a time or place."

After their initial breakout success of the 1978 film *Up In Smoke*, the pair released numerous successful albums and movies before going their separate ways in 1985. Both got involved in television, with Cheech starring in *Nash Bridges* and Chong starring in *That '70s Show*. In their spare time, Cheech got involved in collecting Chicano art and golfing, while Chong used his celebrity status to become one of the leaders of the movement to decriminalize marijuana. There had been



rumours for years that they would reunite, but both life and their individual pride got in the way. After planning to get back together in 2003, the duo was derailed when Chong's marijuana paraphernalia company was raided and he was sentenced to nine months in prison. Looking back on the experience, Chong describes the slammer in a serious, though stunningly fond manner.

"First of all, you get humbled. If you're not humbled before you go in, you become humbled—that's the whole point of prison. Prison is to bring you to your knees, make you humble. Once you accept that, everything's fine. Ego is just another word for fear. An ego is a false sense of who you have to be in order to survive. You lose your ego and there's nothing but the real you left."

"But jail is a phenomenal learning experience, because you're in school 24 hours a day. You don't have to worry about anything but what you're going to read. Can you imagine that?" Chong continues. "All you have to worry about is what you're going to read for the next nine months, what you're going to study, what you're going to get yourself involved in."

"I was on a desert, and it was a protected hunk of land because of endangered desert species. There were scorpions and tarantulas, and that's where they go to breed. There were also wild jackrabbits that would come out in hundreds on the lawns in the grass on the prison grounds. There were packs of wild dogs that had been abandoned by humans roaming the desert, packed together like wolves. I got a dining experience—I got to eat with [people from] almost every country in the world, from Malaysia, to

China, to Korea. Because I was a celebrity, I got invited to all their going-away parties. I took high school while I was there, I took a horticulture class, and I learned how to grow grass of all things. It was a defining moment of my life. I really enjoyed it."

After he walked out of the prison gates to freedom, the pair tried again for several years to reunite, until a 2008 meeting at Cheech's house finally brought the grumpy old couple back together.

"It turned into a big yelling fight," Chong explains. "But I'm deaf, so I really didn't hear half the things he was saying. And he doesn't listen, so he didn't hear anything I said. When I got home, I emailed him and told him that it was just nice seeing him again and even if we didn't work together, we could still be friends. And he emailed me back and said 'yeah, I'm up for that.' The next thing I know, we're on the road."

Even though it took them a quarter of a decade to come to terms with each other, neither Cheech nor Chong say that they dwell on the years they could have had together. All of their individual gambles over the years ultimately brought them to this point.

"I don't have any regrets about my life at all, especially now that Cheech and I are back together," Chong reflects wistfully. "That was my payoff. I went through that and now I'm on the road with the two people I love the most in the whole world—Cheech and my wife—and we're all working together. I mean, that is so sweet, you have no idea. It's the most wonderful feeling in the world, man; there's nothing to describe it."

siteunseen

www.pornfortheblind.org

CONAL PIERSE
Managing Editor

Being blind has its downsides. You have to put your faith in an uppity dog and jokes about a man walking into a bar (ouch) hit a little too close to home. But perhaps worst of all has been the porn industry's refusal to cater to the blind's needs. For centuries, they've been excluded from the visual aspects of dirty sex, forced to painstakingly decipher which orifice is being penetrated by what based on various moans and grunts of "yeah, take it."

However, thanks to the good people at pornfortheblind.org, things are finally starting to change. The site, self-proclaimed to be a "not-for-profit organization dedicated to producing audio descriptions of sample movie clips from adult web sites," combines the fields of pornography and narration, artfully turning cumshots into documentaries on male ejaculatory habits.

Each sound bite serves as descriptive audio for a pornographic website, providing the correct URL, a description of the website, and then a John Madden-esque play-by-play of what's happening on camera—using strictly anatomical language, of course.

This direct, biologically oriented approach actually makes the clips quite humorous, and were it not for the subject material, you might almost think that you were listening to your boring uncle present a slideshow on fly-fishing, instead of that same uncle describing the migratory patterns of a man's wang. The slow, accurate description, combined with

the rapid-fire nature of pornographic montages, makes for a veritable whirlwind of activity—one that I'm sure will have young, confused, blind children assuming that sex involves a panicked game of musical holes.

Narrators range between the awkwardly ignorant who seem like they're trying to do a good deed, to the giggly jackasses who can't contain their laughter when saying "penis." But while the disability-insensitive snickerpusses aren't funny—despite thinking they are—there's something intrinsically hilarious about a sour-voiced, middle-aged man who thinks that he's doing a public service by awkwardly describing gratuitous, chauvinistic sex. But while the sexual rundown is funny enough on its own, their decision to go above and beyond the call of duty with needlessly apt explanations is truly the icing on the cake.

For some reason, each narrator has decided that the blind are incapable of deciphering porn dialogue for themselves, and so feels the need to explain what's happening on camera by reiterating it verbatim, including the production details. Likewise, they also specifically focus on hair colour as if it really means anything to their audience. However, despite their shortcomings, these noble individuals use their words to paint a meat tapestry that even the most steadfast of purists can appreciate.

In the end, pornfortheblind.org is a step in the right direction, and in time, I'm confident that all people, no matter what their disability, will be capable of experiencing the shame of masturbating to porn. And though the voice talent is in no way on par with the likes of Morgan Freeman, listening to pornfortheblind.org is still sure to remind you of long, lonely nights spent in a frigid wasteland.

Chicken soup for the curmudgeon's soul

Neil Labute's play *Some Girl(s)* isn't misogynistic—he just plain hates everyone

theatrepreview

Some Girl(s)

Directed By Trevor Schmidt

Written By Neil LaBute

Starring Christopher Schulz, Linda

Grass, Laura Raboud, Lorianna

Lombardo, and Myla Southward

19 February–1 March at 8pm (No

Mondays or matinees)

Northern Light Theatre (11516–103 St)

\$15–\$25 at northernlighttheatre.com

SARAH STEAD

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Everybody reacts a little differently when their lover utters the words, "It's over." Some make it their mission to salvage the relationship through begging and empty promises, some burn all the pictures and eradicate any physical evidence that the other person ever existed, and others just accept it and move on.

No matter how you grieve though, everyone wants an explanation when they're dumped. In the Canadian premiere of Neil LaBute's *Some Girl(s)*, Northern Light Theatre's artistic director Trevor Schmidt seeks to explore the aftermath of four relationships that ended without answering that critical question of "why?"

Guy (Christopher Schulz) is a serial monogamist and serial failure at relationships. When he finally finds "the one," he decides to look up his four exes to make amends so that he can exchange vows with his fiancé

with a clear conscience. Or at least it appears that way initially. Schmidt is tight-lipped about the specifics of the play, but he hints that Guy's intentions might not be entirely pure.

"He's a dick," Schmidt deadpans.

Though he's previously directed two shows previously written by LaBute, *The Shape of Things* and *Fat Pig*, Schmidt says he wasn't always a fan of LaBute's work. One of LaBute's first productions, *In the Company of Men*, spins the tale of two men who scheme up a plan to begin a relationship with a deaf woman, only so that they can cruelly dump her later. That play, which was later turned into a film, aroused backlash from women and men alike who charged that LaBute was a misogynist.

"LaBute is very cynical about human nature in general. I just think he's really honest about people's failings as people, about their prejudices, their flaws, and their cowardice."

TREVOR SCHMIDT
DIRECTOR, *SOME GIRL(S)*

"For a while, I hopped on that bandwagon," admits Schmidt. "And then I actually read some of his plays and saw a few more of the movies made from things he had written. I realized that he actually doesn't hate women—he

hates everybody. And I thought, 'oh, well that's better!'"

Schmidt elaborates: "[LaBute is] very cynical about human nature in general. I just think he's really honest about people's failings as people, about their prejudices, their flaws, and their cowardice. I like plays that discuss that because as much as we want to see shows about people who are heroic, the truth of life, I think, is that people aren't."

Audiences who remember NLT's 2006/07 production of *Fat Pig* will be familiar with LaBute's misanthropic sentiments. In that production, a man falls in love with an overweight woman and is constantly razed about it by his co-worker and former girlfriend, and must decide whether or not he can continue the relationship. Similarly, *Some Girl(s)* will further exploit the ugly side of relationships as Guy revisits four women he hurt deeply and left without explaining to them why, and LaBute doesn't let his male character off easily.

"[By naming the lead 'Guy'], I definitely think he's making a statement about men in general, for sure [...] I think that everyone feels that you are justified in feeling angry when someone has dumped you. I think that's a universal feeling that everyone has had at one point or another. So I don't think the women will necessarily come off badly in this because I think they are coming from a place that everyone has empathy for," Schmidt explains.

"Anyone who has ever been in a relationship that didn't work out will recognize something in this show."

Edmonton Public Library is now at the U of A

U of A Libraries and the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) have partnered to provide **two new** library services on the U of A campus.



A new location for EPL customers

The Edmonton Public Library is even more convenient with its new location—on the first floor of Cameron Library.

At eplGo, browse the EPL catalogue, pick up holds, or borrow from the selection of magazines, graphic novels, DVDs and bestsellers.
Open weekdays, 9 am - 5 pm.

Learn more about Edmonton Public Library services at www.epl.ca



A new library service exclusively for U of A students

U of A students – register now for an EPL library membership and gain access to all EPL services using the barcode on your ONEcard.

Visit one of EPL's 17 locations or go online at www.epl.ca to learn more about the services offered.

Go to www.library.ualberta.ca/epl to register for your L-Pass.



Padalecki faces the machete in Friday the 13th remake

filmpreview

Friday the 13th

Directed by Marcus Nispel
Starring Jared Padalecki, Danielle Panabaker,
and Derek Mears
Opens Friday, 13 February

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior Writer

As someone who grew up watching horror movies, Jared Padalecki surprised himself every time he filmed a fight scene with one of horror's greatest villains in the new remake of *Friday the 13th*—which opens, conveniently enough, this Friday, 13 February.

"I'm a fan of the genre, and for me—my role specifically—I get to go head to head with Jason more than once, so it was really cool. I've been growing up watching this movie and watching Jason Voorhees and never thinking I could be a part of it all, and all of a sudden, there you are on set, fighting Jason," he says.

Padalecki is enthusiastic as he talks about starring in what's been described as a "re-imagining" of the classic Jason series. The former *Gilmore Girls* actor and current cast member of the WB's *Supernatural* plays the role of Clay Millar, who ventures out to Camp Crystal Lake—made famous from the original 1980 film—to search for his missing sister. Against the advice of police and locals, he pursues the limited leads he has with the help of some vacationing college kids for an all-thrills weekend. What they discover out in the woods is a serial killer with a machete and a signature hockey mask—the infamous Jason Voorhees.

As Padalecki describes, Jason gets back to his horror roots in this version of *Friday the 13th*.

"Jason got a little cheesy towards episode number twelve of his installments," Padalecki explains, distancing the remake's raw representation of the character from some earlier

portrayals. "I mean, it was like 'Jason goes to the moon,' 'Jason shops at Target,' 'Jason and the Muppets.' It started out kind of scary and like a horror movie, then it got cheesy and campy. Which is fine—it has its time and place—but I don't think that time and place is with Jason Voorhees at Camp Crystal Lake."

"I like keeping it scary. Jason's a bad-ass villain, you gotta treat him like that," he continues, "Our Jason, played by Derek Mears, is fit, and he's capable, and he feels like a guy who could have survived in the woods for however many years. He's like a pitbull with a machete chasing you down, so you feel like there's no escape."

"Jason got a little cheesy towards episode number twelve of his installments. I mean, it was like 'Jason goes to the moon,' 'Jason shops at Target,' 'Jason and the Muppets.'"

JARED PADALECKI
ACTOR, FRIDAY THE 13TH

With Jason getting scarier, the special effects getting better, and the numerous death scenes that are as gory as they've ever been, you might think that Padalecki would be wary of things that go bump in the night after filming *Friday the 13th*. While he's exuberant about the horror value in the film, he still admits to being freaked out a bit by the paranormal aspects.

"I'm a little superstitious. Not big time—I like to think I'm reasonably logical and realistic. But I remember one time I had a flight from Vancouver to Los Angeles, and it was going to be on a Friday the 13th, and for whatever reason I wasn't like, 'Oh no, I can't fly on Friday the 13th,' but I ended up just changing my flight to the next day."



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Falling head over heels with big savings

Beneath a romance and a half-inch baby, *Hello Hello* deals with consumerism

theatrepreview

Hello Hello

Directed by Kevin Sutley
Written by Karen Hines
Starring Beth Graham, Nathan Cuckow, Molly Flood, and Jesse Gervais
12-21 February, Tuesday-Sunday at 8pm with 2 pm Sunday matinees
Roxy Theatre (10708-124 St)
\$15 for students

SIMON YACKULIC
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If the concept of a chance, night-time encounter between two people at a gravesite that ultimately leads to dinner, sex, and a half-inch long baby leaves you more enthralled than repulsed, perhaps Kill Your Television's *Hello Hello*—a romantic satire is the sort of play that you wouldn't mind taking a date to this Valentine's Day.

Kevin Sutley, the production's director, figured that having opening night just before Cupid's holiday will present a perfect opportunity to have people further reflect on the consumerism and romanticism that the play satirizes.

"There's a strong theme that runs through the whole play where we use romance, falling in love, and procreation as a form of escapism from the chaos that is the world around us. It's about people who turn having babies into a hobby, so they can decorate a

room and buy toys."

Ironically—considering that Sutley is directing a musical theatrical production—musical theatre has historically been one of the primary societal institutions that further perpetuated romanticism to shield the masses from a less glitzy, colder, and harsher reality.

"When you talk about escapist form and entertainment, musical theatre is at the top of the heap. There's all kinds of musical theatre, but the standard that I think of is when you go in and there's a couple in love and they burst into 'Oklahoma, where the wind...'" Sutley explains. "They're not dealing with any issues; there's just a sense of pretty. The musical form takes romance to a kind of sanitized, pretty, clean place—everyone gets together, everyone lives happily ever after in the end."

"It's about people who turn having babies into a hobby, so they can decorate a room and buy toys."

TREVOR SCHMIDT
DIRECTOR, HELLO HELLO

Hello Hello—a romantic satire is geared towards undercutting the sanitized, shielded state of society by contrasting the effects and appearances of modern consumer culture. Sutley notes that the performance moves between traditional and darker styles, creating

a firm sense of irony for the audience that they can relate to

"The mood switches: it's really light in places and really dark in places, and I think that's part of the comedy. We move from really dark undertones to really ignoring the darkness and [creating a] zippity-do-da-esque mood."

Sutley himself feels that this is quite applicable outside of the theatre and draws on the duality of the North American lifestyle.

"It's very easy to see people very concerned; people sitting in Starbucks, talking about the environment, drinking in their paper cups. It's those sorts of ironies that we live with every day—that we justify spending all the time and wasting all the resources in order to redecorate a kitchen because we're putting in energy saving appliances."

With all the focus on the negativity brought about by consumerism and the irony of romanticism, Sutley notes another dark aspect of the play—the graveyard-to-bedroom plot. The set design for the play was modeled on "Calvin Klein ads from the '80s."

"This iconic consumer culture looks where really the people are dead, they're dead within the pictures," Sutley says. "They're not energized and engaged—they're just bored."

Despite all the dark elements, Sutley still recommends this play, even for couples who don't have an interest in the macabre and are just looking for a fun time together this weekend.

"It's fun, with lots of laughs, and has a really romantic background. It's been a good date play."

Ballast an emotionally chilling triumph

filmreview

Ballast

Directed by Lance Hammer
Starring Micheal J Smith Sr, Jim Myron Ross, Tarra Riggs, and Johnny McPhail
13, 15-17 February
Metro Cinema (9828-101A Ave)

IAN PHILLIPCHUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's impossible to talk about *Ballast* without talking about huge quantities of air. In the traditional meaning of the word, they keep submarines working at an even keel. For the movie, writer and director Lance Hammer uses his award-winning skill behind the camera to keep the film on a track for a slow, simmering, emotional burn.

Ballast opens with a neighbour checking in on Lawrence (Michael J Smith Sr) and his twin brother Darius, and making the grim discovery that the latter has committed suicide. It's clear that Lawrence is devastated by this event, as he almost immediately tries to shoot himself. Waking up in the hospital, Lawrence begins the long, slow path that is life without his sibling.

Darius left holes in the lives of more than just Lawrence; he fathered a child James (Jim Myron Ross) with Marlee (Tarra Riggs), who feels that her life was destroyed by the brothers. James wanders the endless marshes and deadwood forests of the Mississippi Delta, searching for a purpose to what is essentially a life being wasted. He falls in with a gang of drug dealers and starts doing cocaine seemingly as a way to do something, even if it isn't worthwhile.



A confrontation with the dealers sends Marlee and James to Lawrence's property, claiming half of it as their own, and simultaneously forcing the three of them to consider the lives that were changed irrevocably by Darius' presence and death. The fact that these few events take place over more than half an hour and are still engaging is a testament to Lance Hammer's skill.

What might be most impressive about *Ballast* is how the actors say something without saying anything at all. The movie has startlingly few lines of dialogue compared to occasionally wordy Hollywood dramas, and it fits the tone and pacing of the film. Whether it's the mournful whine of James in his mother's arms after the confrontation with the drug dealers, Lawrence sleeping in his brother's bed after his death, or Marlee asking why Lawrence still helps her despite hating her for what she's done to his brother, the actors put on a show here.

Hammer really makes an emotional connection with the characters and this strength allows him to get away with the slow-as-molasses pacing. It doesn't matter that the audience spends most of the time watching James wander around the Delta—it's the journey of

the characters that's important. *Ballast* is as much about inaction as it is about the sudden changes that impact the trio's life.

In the hands of a lesser director, this inaction and pacing would be the death of the movie. It will certainly throw off mainstream audiences who might not be prepared to watch 45 minutes of movie stretched into over an hour and 40 minutes. But Hammer realizes that even though each scene doesn't require dialogue in order to be a critical part of the movie, they do have to say something, and every little bit of *Ballast* is part of a speech that doesn't use words but speaks volumes nonetheless.

Despite the awards—it won for Best Dramatic Directing and Best Cinematography at the Sundance Festival—and the incredible performances, *Ballast* is heartbreaking emotional grinder that never lets up right to the very end. It's about one man, a brother, a father, and an estranged spouse, and how his death changed everyone he loved forever. Whether that prospect appeals to you or not, you would be hard pressed to find a film that treats it with as much sentiment, relentlessness, and skill as *Ballast*.

Frying up a sizzling dish of Hot Panda

musicpreview

Hot Panda

CD Release Party
With The Whatsundays and Rah Rah!
Saturday, 14 February at 9pm
The Pawn Shop (10551-82 Ave)
\$10 at the door

CODY CIVIERO



basis for their handle.

"We needed to come up with a band name because we booked a show and they needed to know what we were called. We didn't have a band name yet, so we were kind of stressing. Where we jammed, there was a billboard for Panda Hut, and we were driving by there and Keith [Olsen, bassist] started riffing about how they have a pen in the back with pandas" Connolly muses. "He said that you can get a bowl of 'steaming hot panda' and we really laughed at that."

Their website contains a section dedicated entirely to particularly good eats that they enjoyed on tour across the country. "We've toured a few times now so we have our favourite places that we like to go to, so we thought we'd share that. So if you're travelling ever and are like, 'Where can I

eat in Regina?' you can check it out," Connolly courteously suggests.

In addition to the website recommendations, the band's enjoyment of all things food have qualified them to attend a cooking radio show. "They bring bands on and cook with them and go back and forth between asking questions and then talking about the food you're making," he describes. "Keith's a pretty good cook. He's a vegan, so he kind of has to be—you have to get good at cooking because it can be tough to eat out sometimes."

With an all-Albertan lineup, the Panda crew are happy to kick off their landmark release here at home. But they can take comfort in the fact that they know where to get some quality burritos, regardless of which corner of the nation they end up in.

cjsr FM88 albumcharts

FOR THE WEEK ENDING
TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY

- 1. HOT PANDA**
Volcano ... Bloody Volcano
(Mint)
- 2. NOUS NON PLUS**
Menagerie
(Aeronaut)
- 3. SHIP SHAPES**
Shuffle On, Soldier
(Capital Punishment)
- 4. THE GRUESOMES**
Gruesomania
(Ricochet Sound)
- 5. ANDREW BIRD**
Noble Beast
(Fat Possum)
- 6. CIRCLESQUARE**
Songs About Dancing And Drugs
(IK7)
- 7. DENT MAY AND HIS MAGNIFICENT UKELELE**
The Good Feeling Music Of...
(Paw Tracks)
- 8. HANK**
The Luck Of The Singers
(Blocks Recording Club)
- 9. WOODPIGEON**
Treasure Library Canada/Houndstooth Europa
(Boompal)
- 10. THE MAGICIAN**
Who Will Cut My Grass When I'm Gone
(Independent)

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Dean Mary Anne Bobinski
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LEGAL ISSUES IN HEALTH CARE REFORM
IN THE UNITED STATES

Professor Timothy Stoltzfus Jost
Washington and Lee University School of Law

Monday, March 9, 2009
12 noon, Room 237, Law Centre, Uof A

Picard Lecture in Health Law

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION
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NEW DIRECTIONS AND DEAD ENDS

Professor Matthew C. Nisbet
American University, Washington, D.C.

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Rome built in modern day by Citadel

This contemporary take on *Julius Caesar* retains the original political message.

theatrepreview

Julius Caesar

Directed by James Macdonald
Written by William Shakespeare
Starring Troy O'Donnell, Chris Bullough, Michael Peng, Ava Jane Marcus, and Ryland Alexander
21 February–15 March at 7:30pm
Maclab Theatre (The Citadel, 9828-101A Ave)
\$40–75 for students at The Citadel Box Office (tickets.citadeltheatre.com)

TYLER REEKIE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Without a doubt, moving away from the safe walls of university and into the "real world" can be a daunting task. However, while most of us spend several years deciding what to do with our lives, for University of Alberta Drama graduates Ava Jane Markus and Ryland Alexander, who will be gracing the stage in the Citadel's upcoming production of Shakespeare's classic *Julius Caesar*, they went from the

University to Edmonton's premier stage in a relatively short time.

"It feels like there's a real solid base here for young actors to jump into the community," says Markus. "It's a very direct link (between the University and community)—everybody you're working with has a connection to the University and that just creates a bond."

And work they got; Ava Jane will be making her Citadel debut playing the role of the Soothsayer, who famously warns Julius Caesar "beware the ides of March." However, when asked about her role, she mentions that it isn't what you'd expect.

"We are taking a different spin on the Soothsayer," she says. "We're playing it as a Pompey war veteran. I'm a fortune-teller, but I'm also crippled and blinded, so there's a lot going on there—not just my crystal ball."

In fact, the whole adaptation takes a unique and revisionist look at Ancient Rome, so if you're expecting men in robes giving long soliloquies, you'll be in for a real treat.

"It's played as if the Roman Empire never fell," says Alexander, who plays Octavius. "So it's set in modern day

and is modernized, but there is a lot of reference to that [Roman] society. Even though we'll be in more modern fatigues, we'll still adorn pieces of the toga and sashes of that time."

But while they take a novel look at a classic story, both Markus and Alexander agree that the original tale of *Julius Caesar*, where the political turmoil and strife clash with the hearts of leaders, is still relevant to today's world.

"I would say there is quite a bit of prevalence [to current politics], but not any leaders specifically," explains Alexander. "What's really great about this play, especially in the oratory scene, is the way the leaders are using words to sway masses. If you're looking at what Obama is doing now, as a great political orator, how he can move the people. This play really shows how the power of speech can sway."

Markus agrees. "[There's that] mob mentality and the lack of information that the masses have, because the only information you are getting are from Brutus and Marc Antony and it's highly filtered. It makes you think about mass media."

You wouldn't like Bale when he's angry



MIKE
DADURAL

A&E Commentary

Like an insecure girlfriend, the tabloids tend to have a really bad habit where they take an everyday situation and totally blow it out of proportion. So it comes as no surprise that Christian Bale has come under fire after news of his F-word-laden tirade on the set of *Terminator: Salvation* began to surface on the Internet. The four-minute audio clip contains a very angry Bale tearing a new one out of director of photography (DOP) Shane Hurlburt, for repeatedly ruining both his scene and his concentration by walking around on set.

This is an excellent example of how big name male actors can be total divas and it annoys me to hear about an actor's ego being exposed for the entire world to see. But what's worse is the fact that his actions have polarized society, forming a schism

between those who support the actor and those who don't.

Those who support Bale say that the DOP had it coming, which makes sense. On a professional level, he shouldn't have been tinkering with the lights during a scene, so I can see why Bale went nuts about it all; it's also important to note that the DOP had been told to stop what he had been doing on more than one occasion.

On the other hand, many people are angry and disappointed at Bale for verbally bullying the DOP, claiming that he took things too far and that Bale was just using his status as an actor to belittle another. To make things worse for him, his temper tantrum could affect his chances at winning an Oscar. Already garnering buzz for next year's Oscars for his role in *Public Enemies*, some say that his nomination may be stripped from him due to this.

Personally, I'm siding with Bale on this one. Although he did overreact over the whole thing, considering the strict time schedules that the actors have and the deadlines that are set by the company, nobody should be screwing around when

they're on the set. And if he actually gets snubbed by the Academy for his hissy fit, I don't think that the Oscars will be taken seriously anymore if it's shown that nominations aren't based on merit alone.

The way that everyone is reacting to this makes it seem like there are people out there who've never felt an inkling of anger or heard "fuck" being said a gratuitous number of times. But really, those who are freaking out about this whole thing are hypocrites, because I'm willing to bet that they've freaked out on someone at some point in their life. Luckily for them, they have the luxury of privacy and won't likely find their anger streamed on YouTube or flashed on the cover of a magazine.

This is just a clear example of how powerful the tabloids and the Internet can really be. They can take a story, twist the situation, and make millions feeding us these mundane stories about normal people in extraordinary situations. Bale just happened to throw a fit at the wrong time and in front of the wrong people. It just sucks that his consequences could potentially alter his career for the worse.



albumreview

Common

Universal Mind Control
G.O.O.D. Music/Geffen

IAN PHILLIPCHUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Despite his best efforts, Common manages to not quite ruin his most recent disc, *Universal Mind Control*. It's only due to the intervention of his producers Kanye West and The Neptunes that the disc skyrockets from the depths of obscurity and into mediocrity. It's not that Common doesn't have the talent to put out solid hip-hop—it's just that his words have come to fail him on this most recent effort. At times, it feels like

Universal Mind Control is a collision of bad lyrics, excellent beat, and decent flow.

Ironically, the parts of the record that likely weren't Common's responsibility are where the CD really starts to shine. Kanye's and The Neptunes' fingerprints are all over this album, from the quick pace on most of the tracks to the electronica-inspired beat. This format has been wildly successful in the past

and it's applied to successful use here.

When Common takes control of the music, however, it's a disappointingly mixed bag as far as results go. Some vocals on particular songs can only be described as cringe-inducing and this problem occurs far too often to ignore. In particular, the chorus on "Sex 4 Suga," is just a repetition on the title, and borders on painful. His delivery is solid though, which is a shame, because the words don't do the voice justice.

When all of the positives and negatives are tallied, the disc is still above water. It's a solid, if undistinguished, effort from Common and the choice of Kanye and the Neptunes as producers will clearly pay dividends in bolstering his skill if he continues with them. But as it stands, *Universal Mind Control* falls somewhere in the middle of current hip-hop efforts.

CANADA WEST
STATISTICSMen's Basketball Central Division
(Final Standings)

Team	GP	W	L	+/-	PTS
Saskatchewan	22	18	4	+251	36
Alberta	22	16	6	+319	32
Calgary	22	8	14	-42	16
Lethbridge	22	5	17	-330	10

Men's Basketball Great Plains Division
(Final Standings)

Team	GP	W	L	+/-	PTS
Regina	22	18	4	+322	36
Winnipeg	22	13	9	-19	26
Manitoba	22	8	14	-125	16
Brandon	22	1	21	-510	2

Men's Basketball Pacific Division
(Final Standings)

Team	GP	W	L	+/-	PTS
Simon Fraser	23	22	1	+558	44
Victoria	23	17	6	+262	34
UBC	23	13	10	+93	26
Trinity Western	23	11	12	-129	22
Fraser Valley	23	4	19	-296	8
Thompson Rivers	23	3	20	-354	6

First Round Playoff Matchups

Friday

Winnipeg @ Regina (Game 1), 7pm

Victoria @ Trinity Western (Game 1), 8pm

Saturday

Simon Fraser @ UBC (Game 1), 7pm

Winnipeg @ Regina (Game 2), 7pm

Saskatchewan @ Alberta (Game 1), 8pm

Victoria @ Trinity Western (Game 2), 8pm

Saturday

Winnipeg @ Regina (Game 3, if necessary), 7pm

Simon Fraser @ UBC (Game 2), 7pm

Saskatchewan @ Alberta (Game 2), 8pm

Victoria @ Trinity Western (Game 3, if necessary), 8pm

Saturday

Saskatchewan @ Alberta (Game 3, if necessary), 3pm

Simon Fraser @ UBC (Game 3, if necessary), 7pm

Hoop Bears feeling
confident for playoff run

PETE YEE

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

After capping off their regular season with a massive victory against Calgary on their home court, the Bears basketball team (13-9) will now focus their energy ahead to the playoffs and their opening round best-of-three matchup against the Saskatchewan Huskies (10-12).

Saturday night's ten-point victory against the Central Division-leading Dinos was precisely the medicine that Alberta needed to jumpstart their confidence heading into the postseason. According to head coach Don Horwood, while the team's successful second-half has spoken for itself, stealing a win away from a top team and a hated rival is exactly the kind of statement they wanted to make coming to this weekend.

"I haven't seen the guys since Saturday night, but I'd say the confidence level is pretty high," Horwood noted. "Obviously, splitting with Calgary this year—we won two, they won two—and getting a win this weekend where we beat

them by more than they beat us is helping the team feel very good about themselves right now. And I think they have a good reason to—we've had a pretty good run since Christmas and we've had to claw and scratch for everything we get."

Alberta prevailed 3-1 in their season series with Saskatchewan, splitting the first series of the year at the Main Gym and walking out of Saskatoon with a sweep of their playoff opponents. One concern that still weighs on Horwood's mind, which he believes could tip the scales in the Huskies' favour, is their ability to win offensive rebounds.

"The second game they played here before Christmas, they beat us by 16 or 18 and they dominated us on the boards with their size. If they were to play aggressively on the boards and we don't, I think they could handle us. That was my biggest concern when we went in there three weeks ago and our guys rose to the occasion. Now, it's a different scenario with playoffs on the line and all."

While the Golden Bears will likely have to concern themselves with earning their points

by committee, they will also have to keep their eye defensively on Saskatchewan's one-man show known as Showron Glover. After dropping 37 points on Lethbridge last Saturday and having already scored 50 in a game earlier this year—an individual feat that has only been accomplished five times since 1972/73—the dynamic Huskies guard will undoubtedly be hungry for offence in his first Canada West playoff appearance.

"I thought Scott Leigh did a great job the weekend that we played them [in Saskatoon]—both nights, Scott kept [Glover] in front of him, and that's what we're going to be asking him to do for us this weekend," Horwood explained. "We have to make [Glover] shoot over top of us and not let him penetrate—I mean, he's going to get x-number of points no matter what, but I think where he hurts you more is when he gets past the guy who's guarding him, gets into the paint, draws people, and picks for easy buckets."

Tipoff goes Friday and Saturday night at 8pm (with a third and deciding game, if necessary, on Sunday at 3pm) at the Main Gym.

Bears basketball hires Canadian
Greg Francis as new head coachNICK FROST
Sports Editor

As the current Golden Bears basketball squad gears up for this year's postseason, the University of Alberta Athletics Department has already taken a step towards ensuring success next season by announcing the hiring of Greg Francis as the team's new head coach on Monday.

Francis, 34, brings with him a wealth of both national and international experience to the Alberta bench. The Toronto native spent his college days with the Fairfield University Stags, taking the Connecticut-based school to a berth as the East region's 16th seed in 1997. After stints in Britain and Lebanon, Francis began dedicating his time to Canada Basketball, participating

in the 2000 Sydney Olympics alongside fellow Canuck Steve Nash—currently, he is also the head coach of the Canadian national junior team.

His soon-to-be predecessor Don Horwood commended the school's choice, noting that, while he doesn't know Francis personally all that well, he knows that the newcomer has positive character and leadership qualities that can carry this team.

"First of all, I don't know a lot about Greg; I've only met him once or twice and he seems like a really good guy. A lot of people speak really highly of his character, so that's a real positive, obviously," Horwood said. "An ex-player of mine Peter Knechtel who played on the championship team in 1994, as well as 1995 and 1996, played with Greg for the Worthing Bears in England and I

remember, at the time, he told me that he was a really good guy."

Outside of his ability to work with the team at hand, Horwood was quick to point out that with Francis being an eastern-based coach, the potential for bringing in a wider array of talent from across Canada to the U of A seems more likely now than it ever has been.

"With the expansion going on in Canada West right now, recruiting outside of Canada West is going to be very important to keep the program at that level and I think he's got a fantastic opportunity to do that," Horwood explained. "He grew up in the Toronto area and he's got all kinds of contacts back there; a lot of people back there respect him. So, I think he's in position to do a really good job here and I'll be excited to see what happens."



I'M OUTTA HERE Don Horwood expressed words of praise for Greg Francis.

FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

Attention Grad Students!!

Your Graduate Students' Association is now accepting nominations for Executive Officers:

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Forms are available at the GSA office at 1-37 Triffo Hall, or can be downloaded from the GSA website.

Nomination period closes on February 23rd 2009 at NOON

Website
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FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LETTER "Z" Bears right-winger Lee Zalasky (18) gets tangled up with Huskie Jesse Zetariuk

Puck Bears looking for answers at home against red-hot Bisons

EVAN DAUM
Sports Writer

For the 13th time in as many polls, the Golden Bears (19-3-2) enter their weekend series as the top-ranked team in the nation as they take to the ice this weekend against the Manitoba Bisons (12-8-6). This doubleheader will serve as a test of tenacity for Alberta, who will be looking to bounce back from their lone home loss of the season after a surprising 6-4 fall to the Lethbridge Pronghorns.

After last weekend's split with the Horns, Bears head coach Eric Thurston will be looking for his team to rebound with a far better effort against a surging Bisons team that now find themselves only two points behind second-place Saskatchewan. The weekend series is critical for the Bisons playoff positioning, as they can finish anywhere from second to fourth, depending on how it plays out.

"I knew there was going to be a let-down and I don't think we responded as well as we needed to," Thurston explained. "Manitoba would love to have a bye and open things up on home ice. We're going to get the same

thing we got against Lethbridge on Saturday—a very tough physical team with a pretty good goaltender in Steve Christie, who's played the most minutes out of anybody in the league."

"We have to look for Ian McDonald to be a big part of us and a big part of our success."

ERIC THURSTON
BEARS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

For Alberta, the weekend will be the team's last before Thurston and seven of his players head to Harbin, China to represent Canada at the Winter Universiade. One of the seven members traveling with the team is netminder Aaron Sorochan, who leads Canada West in goals against average (1.68), save percentage (.936), and wins (14). Sorochan is clearly the class of the conference in net and, as usual, will be a large part of the Bears success this weekend.

According to Thurston, "Aaron is

our number-one guy. When Aaron's in there, our guys know he moves the puck well and he will come up with those one or two big saves to keep our feet underneath us."

Not only does Alberta sport the top goalie in the league, but also three of the league's top five snipers. The Bears are led by Chad Klassen's 37 points, good for second in the conference. Derek Ryan, meanwhile, sits right behind Klassen in conference scoring with 32 points and a team high 15 goals, and rounding out the scoring trio is Brian Woolger with 27 points.

One Bear that Thurston will be looking for big things out of is forward Ian McDonald. The third-year—who put up big numbers in the Western Hockey League—will be one of many looked to for some secondary scoring to compliment Klassen, Ryan, and Woolger.

"We need him to be going for us, and be consistent. We have to look for him to be a big part of us and a big part of our success," Thurston commented.

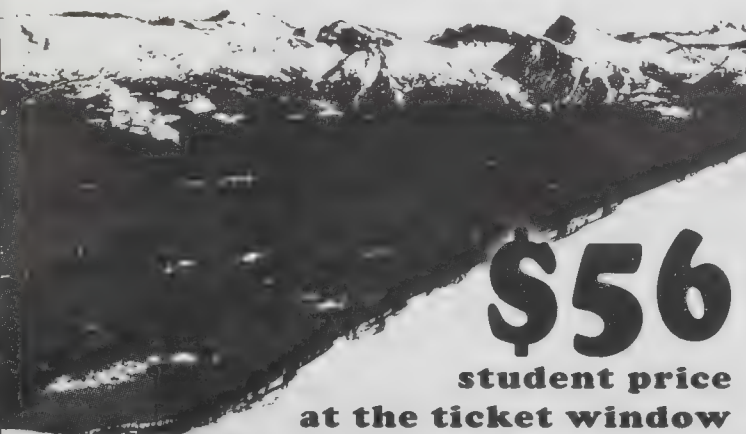
The Bears and Bisons hit the ice at 7:30pm both Friday and Saturday night at Clare Drake Arena. The games can also be heard online at www.bears.ualberta.ca.

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CANADA WEST STATISTICS

2008/09 Men's Hockey Standings (as of 12 Feb, 2009)

Team	GP	W	L	OTL	+/-	PTS
Alberta	24	19	3	2	+53	40
Saskatchewan	26	15	9	2	+13	32
Manitoba	26	12	8	6	+1	30
Lethbridge	24	13	11	0	-12	26
Regina	24	9	13	2	-18	20
UBC	24	9	13	2	-37	20
Calgary	24	9	14	1	E	19

2008/09 Men's Hockey Scoring Leaders (as of 12 Feb, 2009)

Player	Team	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
1 Steven DaSilva	SASK	26	18	23	41	20
2 Chad Klassen	AB	24	12	25	37	6
3 Derek Ryan	AB	21	15	17	32	10
4 Steven Gillen	SASK	25	11	19	30	12
5 Brian Woolger	AB	24	10	17	27	4
6 Casey Lee	SASK	24	9	18	27	93
7 Torrie Wheat	CGY	24	12	13	25	22

Hoop Pandas tip off playoffs

Alberta will be looking to open their postseason the same way they finished the year: with wins over Calgary

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

With five-straight wins to end the season and their confidence at its highest for the year thus far, the Alberta women's basketball team (16-6) will open up their postseason schedule with their third-straight match at home this weekend against the Calgary Dinos (8-14). Having already scored two very convincing wins against their southern rivals and postseason foes within the past six days, head coach Scott Edwards admits that his team appears to be on a bit of a high right now.

"I would say that the team has a lot of confidence. It's been building for a few weeks after our Saskatchewan weekend—even though we lost that first night—and I think we've carried that through to our two home weekends as well," Edwards said. "This weekend it was really nice to see us come out and compete against our biggest rivals and win two convincing games. I doubt Calgary will be like that in the playoffs—the games will be much closer and I expect them to get their act together and come back here ready to play."

Edwards' biggest concern all year long has been his team's mediocre shooting-percentage and their lack of confidence in going for open shots. With the Pandas hitting nearly 48 per cent of their shots in both games against Calgary, however, the team's coach believes that his team can hold that form down the stretch.

"What we've been working on for over a month now is trying to get ourselves less-contested shots



PETE YEE

PLAYOFF PUSH Alberta is hoping to advance to next week's Central Division final against the Huskies.

and play off each other a little bit more, dragging defenders out and kicking for more open jump shots," Edwards explained. "Credit to the kids, they're feeling more confident now and knock down the shots that they get, so I see no reason why we'd try and change that style of play."

One advantage Alberta will have coming in, having earned both wins against Calgary to end the season, is that any initial mistakes made last weekend can be corrected and will be fresh in their memories come game-time on Friday. Still, Edwards expects a stronger effort from the Dinos.

"They're a very dynamic offensive team when they get comfortable and they've got two kids that can score at free will if they're playing well," Edwards said. "Their young kids have some great energy and give them good minutes in terms of getting to the rim—they're offensive-rebounding well and just playing really hard."

Pandas postseason starts up at the Main Gym on Friday and Saturday nights at 6pm (with a third and deciding game, if necessary, on Sunday at 1pm). Live webcasts of these games can be heard at www.bears.ualberta.ca.

CANADA WEST STATISTICS

Women's Basketball Central Division (Final Standings)

Team	GP	W	L	+/-	PTS
Saskatchewan	22	18	4	+251	36
Alberta	22	16	6	+319	32
Calgary	22	8	14	-42	16
Lethbridge	22	5	17	-330	10

Women's Basketball Great Plains Division (Final Standings)

Team	GP	W	L	+/-	PTS
Regina	22	18	4	+322	36
Winnipeg	22	13	9	-19	26
Manitoba	22	8	14	-125	16
Brandon	22	1	21	-510	2

Women's Basketball Pacific Division (Final Standings)

Team	GP	W	L	+/-	PTS
Simon Fraser	23	22	1	+558	44
Victoria	23	17	6	+262	34
UBC	23	13	10	+93	26
Trinity Western	23	11	12	-129	22
Fraser Valley	23	4	19	-296	8
Thompson Rivers	23	3	20	-354	6

First Round Playoff Matchups

Calgary Dinos @ **Alberta Pandas**
 Manitoba Bisons @ Winnipeg Wesmen
 TWU Spartans @ Simon Fraser Clan
 UBC Thunderbirds @ Victoria Vikes

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The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher for the 2009/2010 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010 and pays \$2018.78/mo*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2009/2010 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a Gateway editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.**

Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to Gateway Business Manager (Ashleigh Brown, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 6 March 2009. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.



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** Complete job description (subject to change) is available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gjsj

THE GATEWAY

SPORTS
SHORTS

Compiled by Matt Pretty

Pandas Hockey

The puck Pandas (20-2-0, third in CIS) cap off their regular season with a two-game series in Regina against the Cougars (7-14-1). In two previous meetings this season, Alberta picked up 9-0 and 7-3 wins at Clare Drake back in October.

The series will have playoff implications for both sides—two wins for the Pandas would clinch them the top playoff seed and home-ice advantage throughout the Canada West playoffs, while the Cougars are tied with UBC for the last available playoff berth. As the T-Birds play last-place Lethbridge this weekend, Regina will be desperate for at least one win to stay in the playoff hunt.

Pandas standouts Tarin Podloski, Miranda Miller, and Alana Cabana currently sit one-two-three in Canada West scoring and will undoubtedly look to finish conference play on a high note. The puck will drop at 6pm on Friday and Saturday.

Swimming

Both swim teams will look to follow up their bronze-medal wins at the Canada West Championships when they host the Western Canadian Swimming Championship at Kinsmen Pool. Action starts at 5pm Friday night and 10am on Saturday and Sunday.

Fantasy Hockey

The regular season of the 7th Annual Garneau Cup is quickly coming down to the wire. A tight playoff race is developing as Conal Pierce's "TTFKATGL" and Jonn Kmech's "Luscious Dalrymples" are fighting tooth and nail for the sixth and final spot.

However, neither of them are as low as my eleventh-place "Invisible Men." I say this proudly, however, because I have only made one move during the whole season and haven't even opened a fantasy hockey window in months, yet I've still managed to stay out of last place. Not bad, eh?

U of A wrestling to host Can West finals

Bears and Pandas squads looking to avenge missing the podium at January's Golden Bear Invitational

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

Golden Bears and Pandas wrestlers alike will look to walk away with conference bragging rights on their home mat, as they get set to host the 2009 Canada West Championships this weekend.

Interim head coach and former Bears wrestler Anthony Kulak—who took over from departed coach Gia Sissaouri last month—believes that the team that he has inherited, while green, is capable of pulling out performances that could propel Alberta onto the podium.

"There's a lot of energy in the room and I think they can feed off of that," Kulak said. "A lot of it comes down to age and experience—on our roster, six out of our ten males are 18 or 19 years old and four out of our six females are under 19 years old. It's just a young room and it takes time to develop quality wrestlers."

"They're learning more things every time they go to a tournament and they're getting better, but at the Canada West tourney—where we see some of the top competitors in the country—hopefully we can get them to place and take them to nationals where they can meet bigger fish."

This year's format for the event will be a duel meet, whereby teams line their wrestlers up from the smallest weight class to the largest and everyone wrestles their opposition's equal to decide winners. Kulak believes this year will be one of the more exciting tournaments he's been to.

"You line up a roster from lightest to heaviest, square off on the mat, and work your way through the entire team," Kulak explained. "You get to see everybody, unlike our usual draws,



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE The Dinos will be a top opponent for Alberta this weekend.

which makes it more exciting to watch."

With top programs like the Simon Fraser Clan and Calgary Dinos in tow, Alberta will be looking for strong efforts from wrestlers like the Bear's Jason Waas and Pandas freshman Jordan Smith in the 55kg weight class, as well as Teanna Chase in the women's 58kg class and last year's CIS medalists Marielle TerHart and Katherine Martin.

"SFU and Calgary are probably the strongest programs of our top competitors and then there are a few other teams here and there that will have

people that could legitimately win," Kulak admitted. "Calgary has a very, very strong women's program both in Canada West and at a senior level."

"I think everybody from our side has the possibility to chase for a top-three position, but it'd be over-optimistic to say that we're going to get a bunch of gold medals. I do think, however, that we can qualify for the CIS Championships and that's our goal."

Action starts on Friday at 2pm and Saturday at 9am at the Buttermere Pavilion.

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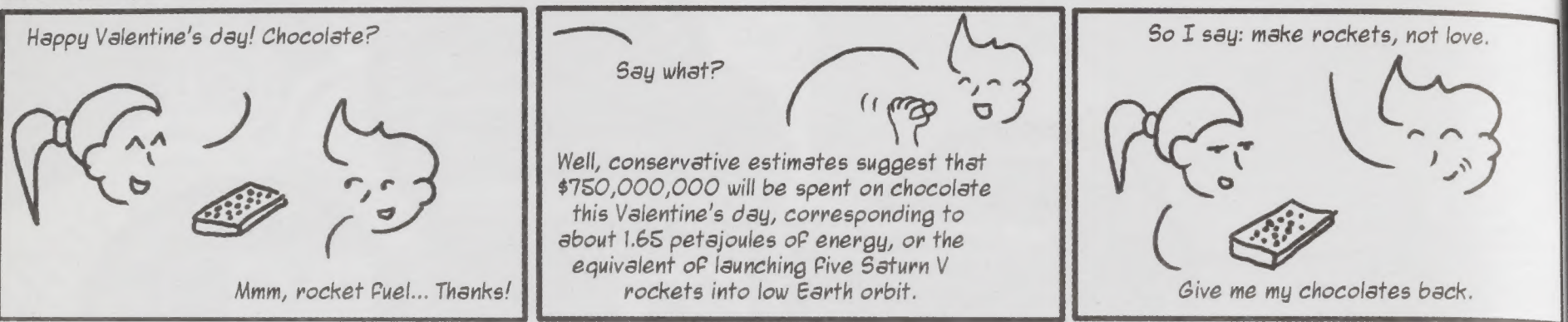
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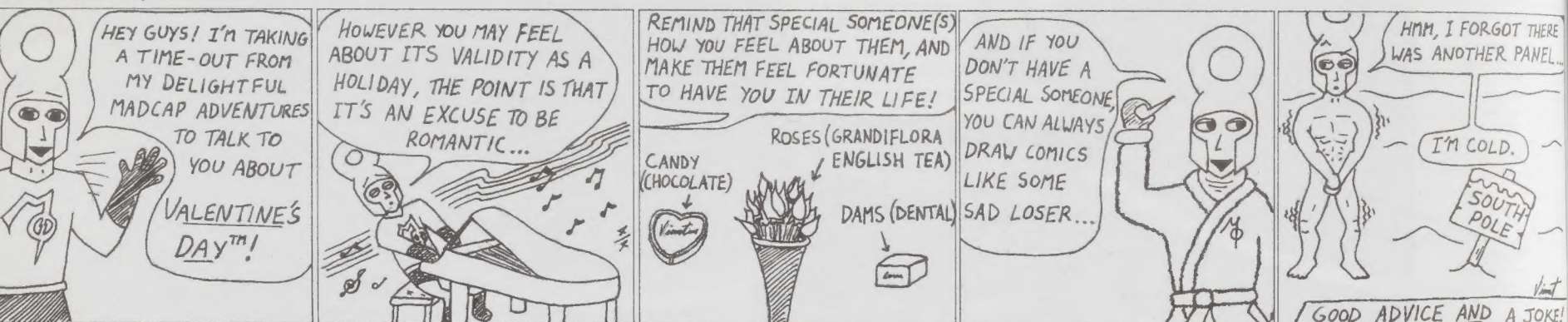
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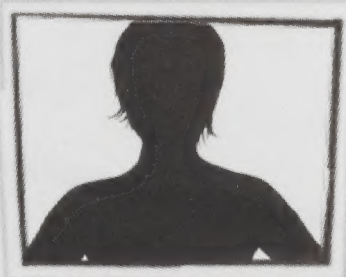
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